

# THE TIMES



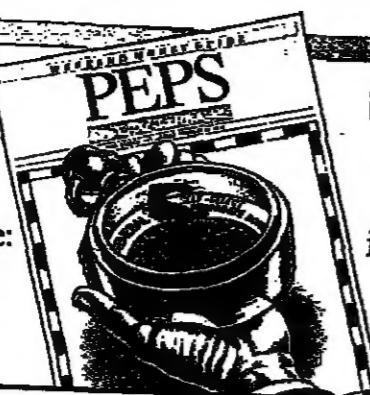
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No. 65,529

SATURDAY MARCH 16 1996

## Inside your 8-section Times

Free money guide:  
16 pages  
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**Robert Redford,  
58-year-old  
heart-throb**  
in the MAGAZINE  
Plus: The 100 most  
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## AUDIO BOOKS OFFER

Details and  
today's token,  
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## Super Cooper

A TV preview of  
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The Queen speaks of her grief  Major and Blair visit children  Injured girl's relapse

## Nation unites for tribute to school victims

BY KATE ALDERSON, ALICE THOMSON, BILL FROST AND ALAN HAMILTON

**IN** A collective act of respect and an expression of deep sorrow, much of Britain will observe a minute's silence tomorrow in memory of the 17 victims of the Dunblane massacre and in solidarity with those left behind to grieve for them.

As the nation prepared to mourn with the Scottish city, doctors struggled last night to save the life of Amie Adam, five. Her thigh was shattered by bullets when the killer slaughtered 16 children and their teacher in the gymnasium of Dunblane Primary School. She had been making good progress after surgery, but yesterday she suffered a "serious post-operative setback" and was on a life-support system in Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow.

The Queen and the Princess Royal will travel to Dunblane tomorrow to comfort the bereaved. A royal visit planned for Monday was rearranged hastily yesterday afternoon when the Scottish Office told Buckingham Palace that the Queen's presence was likely to clash with the first of the private funerals of the dead children.

Yesterday the Queen offered her own public expression of grief to the victims of the massacre. She said: "My heart goes out to them, each and every one, and especially to the families of those who were killed and injured. May their courage remain undimmed. I feel sure that I speak for all of you today in wishing to express our grief for those at Dunblane who have, in whatever way, endured the dreadful events of Wednesday."

The children of Dunblane Primary will return to their classrooms next Friday, nine days after the massacre, the governors said last night. The gymnasium where the victims died will be kept open for parents to visit; then it is expected to be demolished.

Political differences were

**A child is a symbol of hope, a fresh start. It seems so cruelly unfair to extinguish such a source of light. ■**

*The Archbishop of York, p4*

**Dunblane massacre ..... 24**  
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forgotten yesterday when John Major and Tony Blair visited Dunblane and tried to comfort and understand. Doctors and nurses from Stirling Royal Infirmary who had been on the scene minutes after Thomas Watt Hamilton went on the rampage were there to take them to some of the children unlucky enough to have been in the gymnasium, lucky enough to have escaped death.

In the presence of fifty or so medical staff and officials and all the paraphernalia of intensive care, the doctors were able to seek refuge in the jargon of their profession. The politicians found themselves with a limited vocabulary.

However, the children appeared to give them some hope. Matthew Birnie, five, was joking; his parents watched, unable to speak.

In ward 17, the three children were best friends. One was ordering an ice lolly for a pre-breakfast, another was playing with bricks. They might be allowed out for the day on Mothering Sunday.

Mr Major gave his support yesterday to the idea of a nationwide gesture of support and sympathy for a community devastated by ten minutes of homicidal madness. The Prime Minister said that he would observe the minute's silence and was sure many others would, too: "It is im-

portant for people to pay their respects in the wake of Wednesday's tragedy. A minute's silence on Sunday would be one way of achieving this."

Millions of people across the country seem set to follow Mr Major's example on Mothering Sunday. The call for a minute's silence has the support of politicians, the churches and commercial organisations. Organisers of a host of sporting fixtures said yesterday that they too would urge spectators to fall quiet as a mark of respect and national mourning.

Scottish rugby clubs were asked to observe a minute's silence before their matches today. The FA Premier League asked all clubs yesterday to observe the minute's silence before all this weekend's games.

Rick Parry, chief executive of the FA Premier League, said: "Our thoughts go out to the people of that community and our sympathies are extended to all the families who are suffering as a result of this tragedy. A period of silence is one small way of showing respect and expressing the heartfelt condolences of fans, players and officials."

Railtrack said there would be a one-minute silence at 9.30am on Sunday at 14 main stations.

Sainsbury's decided yesterday that a minute's silence would be observed at the chain's 200-and-more supermarkets. An official said: "Just before 9.30am we will broadcast an announcement to all our staff preparing to open these stores, inviting them to take part in a one-minute silence."

Worshippers across Scotland have been called to unite for two minutes of silent prayer at 11.30am tomorrow. The Scottish Evangelical Alliance is asking congregations to "pray for hope amidst the desolation felt by the stricken community".

Graham Hally, a decorator, said he was overcome with

feelings of personal relief mixed with terrible sadness for the parents of Rachel Hally, the five-year-old girl who escaped the massacre because she was at home suffering from a cold, offered his sympathy to the bereaved families yesterday.

Rachel Hally, a decorator, said he was overcome with



Rachel Hally with her father, Graham, yesterday on their visit to Stirling infirmary

## Girl who was saved by cold

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE father of Rachel Hally, the five-year-old girl who escaped the massacre because she was not at school that day, offered his sympathy to the bereaved families yesterday.

Graham Hally, a decorator, said he was overcome with

feelings of personal relief mixed with terrible sadness for the parents of Rachel's classmates. "We are obviously grateful and relieved that Rachel was not at school that day but we are completely overcome by grief at the loss and injuries of the other children," he said.

Rachel, five, an only child,

visited Stirling Royal Infirmary with her parents yesterday to meet the Prime Minister. She was the only child in Primary 1 to be off school last Wednesday.

The Hally family live in Braemar Avenue, the same street as the Currie family whose daughter, Melissa, was among those killed.

## America leaves Adams in no doubt about ceasefire

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

**SPURNED** by the White House, Gerry Adams ended a two-day visit to Washington yesterday with demands for the restoration of the IRA ceasefire ringing in his ears.

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## Fokker collapse hits Short jobs

THE collapse of Fokker, the Dutch group that is the world's largest maker of regional passenger jets, sent shockwaves through the British aerospace industry.

Short Brothers of Belfast, which made wings for Fokker, sent about 650 workers home and said that a further 400 or so jobs are likely to disappear. Rolls-Royce, where job losses are "possible but unlikely", supplied the planes' engines and will lose some £100 million in annual sales

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## Barings chief has his wings clipped

Peter Barings, former chairman of Barings merchant bank, agreed with the Securities and Futures Authority never to work again in the investment industry. His former deputy, Andrew Tuckey, is to restrict his City activities to corporate finance. The SFA has served disciplinary proceedings against a number of former Barings executives

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## Bruno fight attracts heavyweight betting

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD £10 million is expected to be wagered by British punters that Frank Bruno will successfully defend his world heavyweight boxing title against Mike Tyson in Las Vegas.

The fight, which will be the first event to be shown in British homes on pay-per-view when it is screened at 4am tomorrow, has attracted huge support for Bruno. About 95 per cent of the bets in this country are on Bruno, who will earn £4 million from the bout compared with Tyson's £16 million.

Ian Wassells of Ladbrokes said: "This is building up into the busiest betting fight ever." The previous record was in 1989 when Tyson stopped Bruno in their first fight, a year before the American lost his title to Buster Douglas in Tokyo.

The unimpressive form of Tyson since he was released from jail after serving three years for rape, and Bruno's

victory over Oliver McCall for the World Boxing Council title last September, have led many people to back the Briton, who yesterday weighed in at 17 stone 1lb, nearly two stone heavier than Tyson. However, Ladbrokes still make Bruno the 3-1 underdog, with Tyson quoted at 9-2.

About 5,000 Britons, including Bruno's wife, Laura, and their two older daughters, Nicola and Rachel, have arrived to support their man, who lost three world title fights before defeating McCall.

At the weigh-in, Bruno's supporters jeered Tyson and the controversial promoter, Don King, while singing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". Many fans have been unable to get seats and will have to watch the fight on closed-circuit television.

Las Vegas file page 15  
Quentin Letts, page 20  
Bruno portrait, page 46  
Fight preview, page 48

## Dunblane looks to the light beyond

BY MAGNUS LINKLATER

DUNBLANE took a deep breath last night and began the painful process of facing the future rather than dwelling on the past.

The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition had visited the scene of the carnage and had left, overwhelmed by what they saw in the gymnasium where the massacre took place. The media horde had visibly thinned, the streets felt more ordinary, and the people had turned to the church for solace.

The two-and-a-half-hour vigil of prayer held in the cathedral drew together eight denominations and was packed. Each participating minister had 15 minutes in which to offer prayers interspersed with music, but was not a service in the strict sense.

There were no vestments, no high-ranking clergy.

One of those taking part called it "a stepping-stone" to Sunday, when there will be a full commemoration attended by the Queen. Yesterday's vigil was an act of worship that took its text from those who sat in the pews rather than those in front of the altar.

It is not, I think, an exaggeration to say that this community of Dunblane has surprised everyone who has been here with its strength and dignity in the face of disaster. Both John Major and Tony Blair commented on this, and many other people have been impressed by the way the city has come together. Despite all the talk of it being a small, close-knit community in which "everyone knows everyone else", Dunblane is not really like that. It is a commuter town with many outsiders and

"I am a walking council of churches," he said. "I know of no church which has the whole truth and nothing but the truth. I became an Anglican because it was the only church where I had the right to say that I might be wrong."

His tolerance and openness

is shared by others who took part in the vigil. Canon Basil O'Sullivan had just finished a small service for some of the

*Continued on page 2, col 7*

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Did police know about killer's activities? What checks were made on his background?

## Judge will seek answers to gun permit questions

By STEWART TENDLER  
AND STEPHEN FARRELL

LORD CULLEN, the Scottish High Court judge leading the public inquiry on the shooting, began work yesterday as the pressure increased for answers from police and the local authority about Hamilton.

As Lord Cullen met senior Scottish law officers to discuss his investigations officials were waiting for an announcement on the senior sheriff who will head the fatal accident inquiry on the deaths. He could open hearings within weeks, either sitting in Stirling or using a court in Glasgow or Edinburgh.

He will face pressure for

### THE INQUIRIES

public hearings as soon as possible. Both the Central Scotland police and the Central Regional Council are already being accused of hiding behind the two investigations rather than answer questions about their roles in Thomas Hamilton's life.

The fatal accident inquiry, the equivalent of an inquest, will concentrate on the murders and Hamilton's background. The inquiry can make recommendations on school safety, but Lord Cullen is more likely to look at the wider ramifications such as changes to the firearms laws.

Lord Cullen and the sheriff

are certain to focus on how Hamilton came to have and keep his weapons legally. His firearms certificate was renewed six times, although he was investigated by four forces and involved in disputes over his boys' clubs with three local councils.

The inquiry will have to examine how Hamilton was first given his certificate 18 years ago and there are many questions to answer: who did the checks on his background and what did they involve? Was it a local policeman in Stirling or someone from a central unit? Who was the counter-signatory? Did the

police or the referee know about the fact Hamilton had been thrown out of the Scouts and did this raise any doubts? The inquiry must then examine how the certificate was renewed when Hamilton was at the centre of allegations over his treatment of boys and was investigated by police several times. Colin Greenwood, editor of *Guns Review*, said: "The certificates are very hard to get and very easy to lose." He added that certificates could be revoked at any time.

Mr Greenwood, a former police firearms expert, said in situations where there is concern the owner is ordered to deposit his guns with a dealer. This happens, for example, when police are called to a domestic dispute and the wife says her husband has weapons.

Hamilton is reported to have threatened one woman who says she reported this to the police, yet he kept his certificate and was allowed to increase the number of guns he held.

Government guidance to police on the current Firearms Act says a certificate should only be issued if the police are confident there is no threat to public safety or peace. The holder must not be intemperate or of unsound mind or unfit for any other reason to hold a certificate.

The inquiry will have to decide how the guidance was interpreted in Hamilton's case. What was the process for renewing the certificates and were fresh checks carried out each time? Who were the referees for Hamilton and what did they know?

Did the police who issued the certificates know about the allegations made against Hamilton and police investigations and did any of the local authorities who became concerned about Hamilton tell the police?

Did the Central Scotland police have any way of linking the allegations and incidents involving Hamilton with the office issuing his certificate and if they did, what were the criteria for issuing his licence?

He was authorised to keep two .357 revolvers and two 9mm pistols, thought to be the guns used in the shootings.

### THOMAS HAMILTON: A CHRONOLOGY



1974: Dismissed as a Scout leader after an outing to Aviemore. He claimed he had taken eight boys to a hostel. In fact they had slept in the back of a van in freezing conditions.

1977: Receives first firearms certificate from police for a 0.22mm target pistol as a shooting club member. The certificate was issued by the chief constable of the Central Scotland police or a senior officer acting for him after checks by junior officers.

1980: Firearms certificate renewed by the force, which also dealt with all of the later renewals.

1983: Firearms certificate renewed. Central region council bans him from using school premises for a youth group. *The Scotsman* prints first article on concerns over Hamilton's boys' club.

1984: *The Scotsman* prints second article on Hamilton's activities. Ombudsman supports his appeal against the council's decision.

1986: firearms certificate renewed and Hamilton adds a semi-automatic rifle. Fife regional council lets school gyms to him.

1988: Fails to rejoin the Scout movement. Hands in semi-automatic rifle after ban that followed the Hungerford massacre. Claims that two Dunblane police officers told Strathclyde police he was a

known pervert. Runs a club at Linlithgow, Lothian, until the next year when the letting is cancelled after concern from parents.

1989: Firearms certificate renewed. Mother says she passed police a dossier about Hamilton after becoming concerned at treatment of children at a summer camp. Says the camp was raided at one stage by police, an investigation held and 240 statements were taken. No action.

She claims Hamilton tried to threaten her with a gun and she reported this to police.

1990-91: Hamilton visits Stirling shop to process film of boys. Police are told about staff concerns. They now say that any complaint would have been investigated but add: "Because apparently

none of the pictures was of an obscene nature any prosecution would have been extremely difficult to prove."

1992: Firearm certificate renewed. Fife regional council decides to stop letting school premises to Hamilton after complaints and concerns about video filming of boys.

No evidence of illegality or threat to public safety or peace. The council felt something was wrong.

1993-94: Police reported to have made two inquiries into Hamilton.

1993: Mother complains to police after Hamilton found taking photos of 8-year-old boy in school gym. Material passed police child protection unit. Family say Prosecutor's office decided not to prosecute. In September Central regional council warns staff dealing with Hamilton to contact legal administration department.

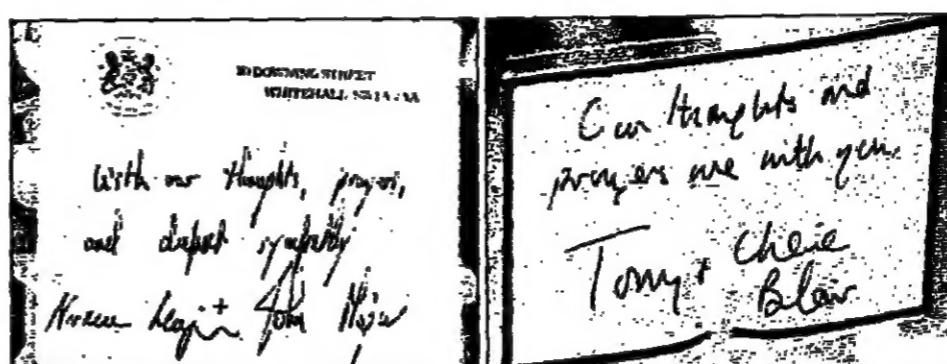
1994: Lothian police caution Hamilton after he is found in a comprising position with a young man in the Carlton Hill, Edinburgh.

1995: Firearms certificate renewed so that Hamilton has permission for two pistols, a Browning and a .357 revolver, plus two more handguns.

In autumn, Strathclyde regional council allows letting to run a football club at school in Bishopbriggs on basis of good references from responsible people.



John and Norma Major arriving at the school yesterday with Tony Blair. They added to the profusion of flowers and, below, left messages of sympathy



## United in fatherly sorrow

By ALICE THOMPSON

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair yesterday shared the grief of Dunblane when they laid flowers in memory of those who died. The Prime Minister placed yellow and white tulips and roses among the other flowers. Mr Blair laid a pink and white bouquet among the teddy bears left by

classmates. Yesterday the two men were not politicians but fathers showing compassion for the bereaved. There were no soundbites or eloquent words as they shivered in the bitter easterly wind.

At Dunblane Primary School they met the headmaster, Ron Taylor, and saw the gym, where dust-sheets hid

the blood-spattered floor. They saw the child-height bullet holes and the dented wall bars where climbing children had been picked off.

Mr Major praised the staff

in trailing sentences: "I don't think it is possible to put into words what they had to deal with." Mr Blair added: "We have seen for ourselves the enormity of the evil."

## The light beyond

Dunblane Primary, he had been one of the first on the scene with the parents when he heard the news of the shooting. "They were all dreading what they would hear. I shall never forget that morning," he said.

Still clearly moved, he gestured towards a small bundle of cards stacked in front of the altar in his church. They were messages of love and sympathy from the primary school at nearby Falkirk. "It's going to take a better man than me to open them," he said.

## Cash pours in from a world shocked by massacre

By CAROL MIDGLEY  
AND LINDSAY COOK

DONATIONS were made from across the world yesterday to appeal funds set up in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.

Several appeals have been launched. Dunblane primary school board and parent teacher association has opened a joint account at the Bank of Scotland to channel money into the school. The Bereaved Families Fund in Stirling, which is providing immediate practical help for the victims' relatives and has offered to pay funeral costs where needed, had already received more than

### THE APPEAL

£10,000 yesterday. Its chairman Tony Black said: "Several funds have been established and we are not in competition."

The local newspaper, the *Stirling Observer*, which established the first appeal fund after the shootings, raised £7,000 in its first few hours.

Sir John Gorst, a Conservative member of the Heritage Select Committee, is to ask the National Lottery Charities Board to consider setting aside money that could be drawn upon by communities in times of exceptional need. The City

demonstrated its generosity when business men and women attending a dinner on Thursday night donated £13,577.60 to the Dunblane appeal. The guests at the Coopers & Lybrand PLC Awards, organised in association with *The Times*, were asked to dig deep by the newspaper's editor, Peter Stothard. Yesterday Coopers & Lybrand topped up the donation to £15,000.

□ Donations can be sent to: The Bereaved Families Fund at the Royal Bank of Scotland, sort code 83-83-00, account number 00 11 96 56. The PTA School Board Fund is at the Bank of Scotland, 63 High Street, Dunblane, Central, FK15 0EJ.



Guests at the Coopers & Lybrand awards last night

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'As I walked in, there were bodies everywhere. They just died where they stood'



Wilma Duggan, the senior nurse on Wednesday

## Nothing can prepare you for this, says doctor

BY EMMA WILKINS

A DOCTOR who was among the first to enter the school gymnasium spoke yesterday of how she overcame her horror at the scene of the Dunblane massacre to tend to the injured children.

Brenda Fleming, an accident and emergency consultant at Stirling Royal Infirmary, paid tribute to the teachers who helped to comfort children as she decided how to begin treating them.

"As I walked in, the teacher who died and a young girl were just at my feet. There were bodies everywhere. They just died where they stood."

"The rest of the room was sprayed with bodies. It didn't look as though they'd survived long enough to move an arm or a leg. In the other room there were children less seriously injured who were sitting crying and being hugged by teachers."

"If somebody had said, 'Stop filming, this is a Hollywood set,' I would have believed them. It was so unreal. It still is."

Miss Fleming was close to tears as she told of how she checked children's pulses. "We checked the dead for signs of life. You have a quick look round and then you go to the ones who are alive and sort out your priorities."

"I was just walking round

### STIRLING ROYAL INFIRMARY

One of the two wounded teachers who survived the gym massacre told yesterday of the horrendous moment when she learnt how many children had died. Speaking from her hospital bed, Mary Blake, a special needs assistant, was described as "one of the luckiest women alive" by her surgeon after being hit by a bullet behind the ear and suffering injuries to each leg.

"I'm feeling better. I don't think I have come to terms with it yet but I'm feeling physically much, much better," she said. "I didn't actually know how many children had died or that the other teacher had died so it has been quite horrendous. It will never be forgotten but I hope things will get back to normal in time. It will be very, very difficult but hopefully, in time." Eileen Harild, the other teacher injured in the shooting, is being treated for limb wounds.

pointing and saying 'that child, that child, and that child.'

Each injured child was taken out, accompanied by a teacher, Miss Fleming said. "The teachers were distraught, but they were superb. Every injured child had someone with them."

"We are trained and it's my job, but nothing can prepare you for this. I can't believe what I saw."

Staff at the hospital were deeply affected by the tragedy, Miss Fleming said. "There are a lot of broken people in the hospital. I've found people crying in the corridors and they've just hugged each other."

Medical staff at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cam-

bridge, had rung to say that if every member of staff in Stirling's casualty department wanted to go to a memorial service for the victims, the Addenbrooke's staff would travel up to cover for them at the hospital, Miss Fleming said.

Wilma Duggan was the senior nurse in the accident and emergency department when the children were brought in.

"They were just so small

and pale. So wee. Nothing could prepare me for that."

Mrs Duggan said,

"She was coping as well as

she could with her terrible

experience, but admitted:

"After my shift I went home

and cried."

The hospital chaplain, the

chaplain, who has been counselling the families of the victims, said that the fact that the Prime Minister and the Opposition leader had come to the hospital together, leaving politics aside, had really moved and pleased all of them. "That very senior politicians could care enough to come help them to know that they are not being left.

"Mr Major said he would do all he could in Parliament to help the people of Dunblane. We only had to ask," Mr Benson said.

Staff, who included para-

medics, nurses, doctors and even telephone operators, had gathered in room at the infirmary to meet the politi-

cians. All the staff have been

moved by the recognition of

the horrific task they have had

to face in coping with the

aftermath of the shootings, the

chaplain said.

The focus of the world on

the city at this time was a help

to the families and the staff in

their grief, Mr Benson said.

"But I hope now Dunblane

will be left alone and people

will leave us to get over it



Brenda Fleming, a consultant, praised the teachers

## Village grieves for Sunday school girls

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

### THE FUNERALS

THE first funeral will take place on Monday when two girls who were close friends will be buried in the neighbouring village of Bridge of Allan. The Church of Scotland funeral of Emma Crozier and Joanna Ross will begin at 11.30am.

Joanna's father, Kenneth Ross, said: "She was the apple of my eye. She was just snapped away. I just can't believe it." The Rev William Gilmour, the church's minister, said that he had lost three little girls from his Sunday school class of 20. The funeral of the third, Victoria Clydesdale, will be held on Tuesday.

Mr Gilmour said: "They were bright little girls, wee sparklers, little buttons. The congregation derived great pleasure from them. Everyone in the church knew them and knew their families. They will be greatly missed."

The Rev Colin McIntosh, the minister of Dunblane Cathedral, said that up to six funerals would be conducted next week at the cathedral. The services at different churches are being arranged to ensure that they do not coincide, so that the families and friends of the dead children can attend each other's services.

It is expected that the funer-

als of all 16 children killed by Thomas Hamilton will be held before Dunblane Primary School reopens next Friday.

Mr McIntosh said: "People have been pouring in to all the churches in Dunblane. But that is not unusual. The cathedral has a congregation of 1,300 and the church and community are closely related.

"A number of my congregation have been personally affected by the tragedy. The questions haven't really come yet. There is still a great sense of numbness and shock. The children are coming into the church and saying childlike things. They are thinking about their friends."

Local florists have called for assistance from shops as far away as Edinburgh to cope with the huge demand for flowers. Hundreds of bouquets have been left at the school. A spokeswoman for McIntrye Funeral Directors, the only undertaker in Dunblane, said it would arrange many of the funerals.

"We are doing what we can. There have been offers of help from undertakers all over the place. Everyone has been very helpful. A lot of the timings still have to be worked out but we are hoping most of the funerals will be over by Wednesday."

He said there would be more visits to the families after the funerals have been held. "There will be a need to unwind. Normal life goes on but it will be very hard for them when the other children return to school. In Emma's

## Child with shattered thigh put back in intensive care

BY STAFF REPORTER

### THE INJURED



Amie: critically ill

showing they care — teddy bears, toy cars for the boys and a Barbie doll for little Amie. The setback in Amie's recovery left friends and neighbours reeling."

A woman neighbour said: "When is the heartache going to stop for everyone? I used to see Amie most mornings going to school or at weekends skipping about. She was a lovely young girl — just a poor wee soul without a care in the world."

□ A fat embolism is a recognised complication of injuries in which bones are shattered (Jeremy Laurence writes). Bone marrow seeps into the blood and the droplets are carried round the bloodstream until they become lodged in the vessels supplying the lung.

Professor Donald Bartrop, head of child health at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, said: "There is a lot of fatty material in the marrow which can seep out. This can happen in leg fractures. It is carried to the lungs and it will block the capillaries in the same way that a blood clot formed during surgery on the leg can travel to the lung and block a bigger vessel."

This is called a deep vein thrombosis which leads to a pulmonary embolism (blockage of the pulmonary artery supplying the lungs) but it is more common in adults."

Doctors were releasing only general medical facts about Amie's condition at the request of her parents. Dr Alister Miller, the medical director, said: "She is again seriously ill and has been returned to the intensive care unit. This is disappointing after she had made such excellent progress after her initial treatment."

Dr Miller said she was having some routine attention to the plaster on her leg when she became unwell. "Her colour changed and she was getting rather breathless, so now she is receiving support

with her breathing on a ventilator," he added.

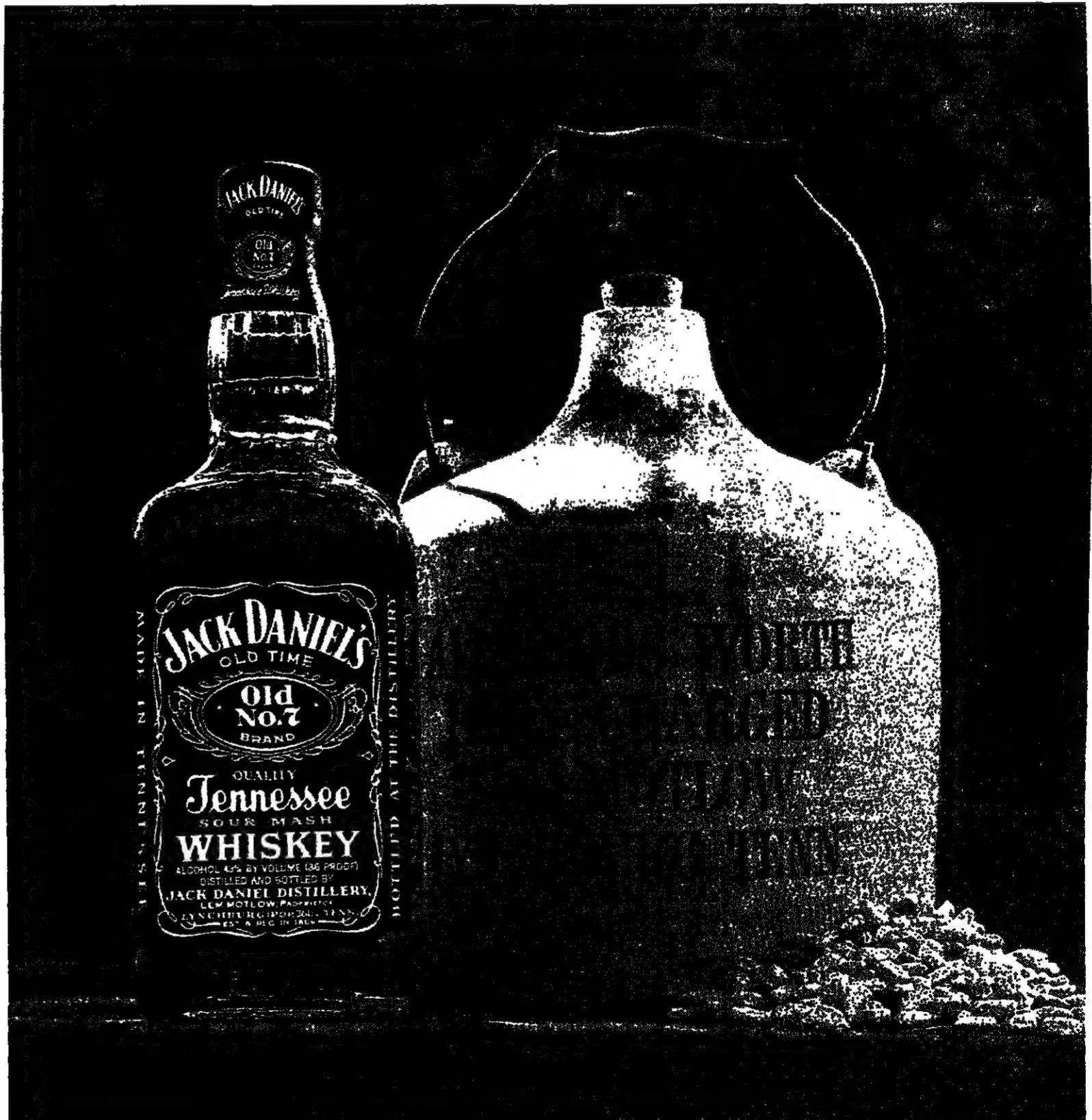
It is understood that bone marrow seeping into Amie's bloodstream may have caused the relapse. On Wednesday night she underwent emergency surgery on her leg at Yorkhill. On Thursday she was moved out of intensive care to an orthopaedic ward and was said to be making good progress.

Toys and flowers for Amie

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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Parents will be free to visit death scene before pupils return next Friday

## Gym where killer struck may become memorial garden

By STEPHEN FARRELL

**THE CHILDREN** of Dunblane Primary School will go back to lessons next Friday, nine days after the massacre, governors announced last night. The gymnasium will be kept open for parents to visit, then is expected to be demolished and turned into a permanent memorial garden for the dead.

Many children have spoken of their fear of re-entering the gym and parents and pupils have asked that it be pulled down.

The moves were announced by Michael Robbins, chairman of the school's board of governors, after staff meetings yesterday. Mr Robbins and other governors spoke of the sombre mood as John Major and Tony Blair went inside the gymnasium for a few minutes, then emerged to express their sympathy to staff.

He acknowledged the Prime Minister's expressed wish to see the gymnasium demolished, but said its future had been the subject of "huge discussions" and no immediate decision would be taken.

"What we are keen not to do is to create a terror zone," he said. "We do not want to block

### THE SCHOOL

off the grieving process. The school will be open and available those parents and immediate relatives who feel the need to go into the gym. Quite a few families have expressed that wish," Mr Robbins said.

"Our view, having spoken to quite a few people is that it ought to remain for a period of time to give people the opportunity to go into it to use it as a focal point of grief. Once the end date has been put on that process we feel that the gym really should be demolished."

Mr Major has said that government funds will be available to pull down the gymnasium and more importantly to redevelop it.

Mr Robbins said: "We want to move away from the idea of a granite slab. One of the ideas is that we have some form of garden area, quiet area for children to reflect in, and some form of play area."

Staff will go in on Thursday next week to lay down ground rules for the children's first day back, and receive whatever practical assistance they need. Counselling will be

available to everyone, janitors and cleaners as well as pupils and teachers.

"There has been a great deal of discussion about the children's return, and the best advice has been to get them back for a single day and then allow them the weekend off to come back for the following week," Mr Robbins said.

Ann Hill, chief executive of the Scottish Schools Board, said: "It will never be normal but you have to get it as near as you possibly can. It will be a normal school day, the parents will drop their children off and they will be met by the teachers they already know."

The school board has also recommended the redecoration of the entire school. Windows in the gymnasium and other classrooms which were shattered by bullets still need to be repaired and bullet holes in walls to be filled in.

Gordon Jeyes, who takes over as leader of the new Stirling council on April 1, said: "Whatever happens to the gym, it is now a special place, and whatever its use it will remain a special place."

Gerry McDermott, spokesman for the school board, said the visit by Mr Major and Mr

Blair had been vital to show the concern of the country beyond the Dunblane community. "It is a great comfort to those who were present at the time and I personally found it very, very helpful."



A policeman comforting a mourner and her children near the school yesterday

Blair had been vital to show the concern of the country beyond the Dunblane community. "It is a great comfort to those who were present at the time and I personally found it very, very helpful."

□ The classroom where Nicola Conroy, 12, was stabbed to death in Hall Garth School, Middlesbrough, two years ago, is still used for lessons but was completely refurbished soon after her murder. It was

out of use for just two days after Stephen Wilkinson entered a mathematics class and killed the girl and injured two of her classmates.

Richard Morrison, page 17

**Credo**

## Christian faith lights path from the desolate darkness of evil

David Hope

SOMETIMES the world seems so full of violence and horror, of lives wickedly and pointlessly destroyed, that we despair. Faced with such fragility of life and the apparent randomness of evil, can we make any sense of it at all?

The immense tragedy of Dunblane drives us to pause, to stop and to be silent — a silence that is multifaceted. Deep anguish over the lives cut short. Deep sorrow for those suddenly and cruelly thrust into bereavement. Deep anger at the man who perpetrated this crime. Deep penitence that this was what our society had come to.

My own mind turned at once to that account in the Gospel of Matthew immediately following that of Our Lord's Nativity — the Massacre of the Innocents by a violent and vicious Herod with his precedent in the slaughter of the firstborn by Pharaoh, King of Egypt.

The Bible is no stranger to tragedy, to the wicked and evil ways of humanity, to that evil which smoulders within and which once indulged is able to unleash forces so uncontrollable that they become inhuman, even "demonic". The price

is no rational explanation, only the fact that God so loves the world. It is only the mystery of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, in the stark symbol of the Cross, that addresses the contradiction of the presence of evil in a world created and sustained by a living and loving God. God, who has seemed so distant, even absent, is actually Himself bearing the pain within our grief and our sorrow.

More than that, even in this tragedy, He speaks to us of life through death, of the final victory over wickedness and evil, already accomplished in Jesus Christ, a sure sign of hope in a dark and troubled world.

□ Dr David Hope is the Archbishop of York

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# Labour sets out pension savings plan for everyone

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

**PROPOSALS** to allow everyone to save for a substantial second pension in addition to the existing state scheme are shortly to be unveiled by Labour. The scheme is intended to reduce the cost of providing for the growing population of pensioners.

Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, is close to finalising his plan, which would enable individuals to build up their own savings within a range of funds run by various organisations, including existing private pension providers. It would allow people to put the 4.8 per cent of National Insurance contributions they are already required to make to a second pension into the new scheme and top it up with voluntary payments.

The heavy private involvement in running the scheme and its collective strength would give it an independence which Serps, the state earnings-related pension scheme, has lacked, the leadership believes. It would drive down administrative costs to such a level that the scheme would easily compete with personal pension plans. Labour believes it could also prove a viable alternative to occupational schemes.

The plan – containing elements similar to schemes already in place in Finland, Chile and Australia – will be the centrepiece of Labour's strategy to combat the burgeoning cost of retirement, as a diminishing workforce

struggles to support increasing numbers of pensioners. Under the scheme insurance companies, employers, friendly societies and other groups would be able to apply to run "cross-industry" plans similar to those in Australia.

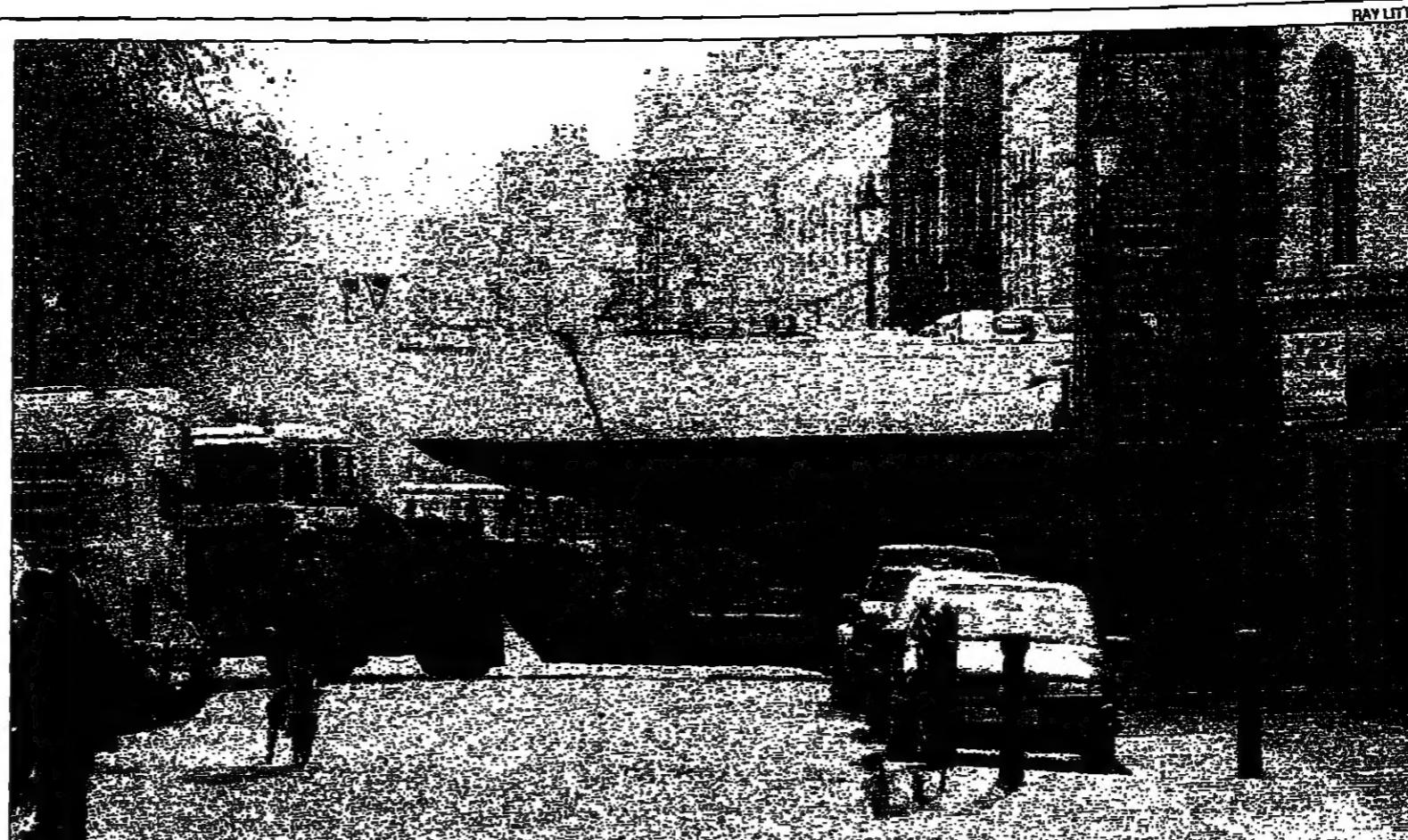
One idea Mr Smith intends to adopt is the Singapore practice of keeping investors regularly informed about the state of their holding, what it is earning at present and its projected value at retirement. It is anticipated that the existing Serps scheme will be allowed to run alongside the new one so that current investors do not feel they have wasted their contributions.

Mr Smith is expected to begin outlining his plans in a series of speeches, the first on March 26. Over the next three months he will be presenting five papers on reform of the welfare state to Labour's national policy forum.

Labour leaders are sure they can produce a better return than personal pensions, which the Government encouraged people to choose in the 1980s. Mr Smith believes that his second-tier scheme can help individuals by allowing them to have their own savings in collective funds, keeping costs low.

Some personal pension schemes have administrative costs as high as 25 per cent; overseas plans similar to the plan Labour has in mind have costs as low as 1 or 2 per cent.

Pensions guide, page 33



Shipping lane: Gipsy Moth IV, Sir Francis Chichester's round-the-world yacht, returning by low-loader at Greenwich, southeast London, yesterday after a refit at Gosport, Hampshire. Damage caused by acid rain and tourist visits took nine months to repair and cost £30,000

## Daffodil prices shoot up as big freeze delays flowering

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AND OLIVER AUGUST

**DAFFODILS** have more than doubled in price in the run-up to Mothering Sunday because of a shortage caused by cold weather and strong foreign demand.

Last month daffodil growers opposed suggestions that Mother's Day be moved to May, in line with other European countries. They feared their business would suffer because May is too late for daffodils.

They were selling for up to £2.50 for a bunch of ten yesterday, compared with

about £1 at this time last year, and in Southampton there has been a spate of daffodil thefts from municipal parks.

In East Anglia, which grows about two thirds of the national daffodil crop, there are almost no pickers in the fields because freezing temperatures have delayed flowering. The Cornish crop, which supplies the early market, is nearly exhausted.

Ed Bowman, general manager of the wholesalers Lingarden of Spalding, Lincolnshire, said: "Basically, there will not be enough daffodils to go round this weekend."

Britain grows 10,000 acres of daffodils, more than the rest of the world put together.

When the crop fails short,

here, the prices paid by foreign buyers rise sharply, driving supplies abroad.

But daffodils are by no means the most popular gift. Angela Henderson, of Interflora, said: "Chrysanthemums, carnations and roses, particularly in pink, easily top the list, followed by freesias because of their strong scent."

## £90,000 award for teacher hit in classroom

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

**TWO** primary school teachers have each won damages approaching £100,000 for injuries suffered in attacks that highlight the growing concern over classroom violence.

In the first case, to be

settled next week, a Coventry teacher who was assaulted by a boy aged nine accepted an out-of-court settlement of £82,000 from her education authority.

The other award was £97,000 to a teacher in Hereford and Worcester handled by a parent.

The payments mark a new phase in the teaching unions' campaign to ensure their members' safety. The number of classroom assaults has risen rapidly in recent years and the issue will feature strongly at next month's conferences.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board sanctioned the £97,000 payment to a man aged 35 who has not worked since he was attacked in 1990.

The teacher, who wants to remain anonymous, was pinned against a plate-glass window in front of his class by the parent of a boy who had consistently failed to wear a uniform.

The National Union of Teachers, which took up the case, said the parent shouted abuse and threatened further violence after his son had been warned that the tracksuit he

wore to school each day was smelly. Although the police took no action, his case was referred to the compensation board when he was unable to return to work.

The teacher, whose wife is expecting a baby, has been under constant medication, suffering paranoia and psychotic episodes. His award is thought to be the biggest made for an attack on a teacher.

The other case, settled in January, involved an incident seven years ago at Frederick Bird School, Coventry. Hazel Spence-Young, was injured when she tried to persuade a boy with a history of behavioural problems to return to class after he refused to take part in a lesson. After shouting abuse at Mrs Spence-Young, he hit her under the chin. She still has difficulty moving her neck.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, which is to give details of the case on Tuesday, took action against the education authority because the assailant was below the age of criminal responsibility. Cathy Goodwin, Coventry's Chief Education Officer, said that the authority was not admitting responsibility, but a protracted court case would not have benefited either party.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### P&O ferry captain 'took his own life'

The captain lost overboard from the European Tideway between Rotterdam and Felixstowe on Thursday is believed to have killed himself. P&O European Ferries said the loss of Captain John Carroll, 51, "appeared to be a personal tragedy".

He joined P&O 25 years ago and became a captain in 1991. He was married with adult children and lived at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

### Police fiver

Hampstead police in north London are asking 200 businesses to pay £5 a year to give a beat officer a mobile phone and allow him to respond instantly to their calls for help. Glenda Jackson, the area's MP, fears the plan could lead to a two-tier service.

### Wheels of fortune

Thieves jacked up 54 new cars in the compound of a Ford dealer at Worksop, Nottinghamshire, stole wheels worth £25,000 and left the vehicles propped on bricks. A spokesman said: "The culprits did us the courtesy of putting the wheel-locking nuts back on."

### Just the ticket

Job seekers in the South Wales valleys are being offered half-price rail tickets to Cardiff in a scheme run by Cardiff Railway Company and the Employment Service. The aim is to help them to find work in the expanding Cardiff Bay development area.

### Taxi death crash

A passenger died in hospital after being pulled from a taxi that had careered off the road and crashed into the River Stort. Carol Watkinson, 23, of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, was trapped in the upturned, submerged car for 40 minutes.

### Beach clean-up

A clean-up of beaches along a 25-mile stretch of the Irish coast began after oil came ashore at Co. Wexford, thought to be from the Sea Empress wreck off the Welsh coast last month. The local authority said there was no immediate danger to wildlife.

### Radio silence

Amateur disc jockeys at Crawley Hospital, West Sussex, have been broadcasting unaware that patients could not hear them because dilapidated equipment had blocked out the signal. The radio station is now moving to a venue with new equipment.



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Multimillionaire twins launch challenge to feudal rule over their tiny Channel property

# Seigneur of Sark resists brothers' independence bid

By EMMA WILKINS

**THE Seigneur of Sark** is to contest an attempt by the multimillionaire Barclay twins to declare independence for the tiny Channel island of Breckhou.

The reclusive brothers, who bought the island on a perpetual lease for £2.3 million three years ago, will ask the Royal Court of Guernsey to determine the constitutional position of Breckhou next week. If the court rules in their favour, they could claim back a £177,000 sale tax paid to the Seigneur.

The island, 1,000 yards long, has been part of the fiefdom of Sark since 1565, when Elizabeth I allowed it to be colonised to stop pirates using it as a haven. It is separated from Sark by a channel 100 yards wide. David and Frederick Barclay, owners of *The Scotsman* and *The European*, have installed an independent water and electricity supply on Breckhou, where they are building a £25 million Gothic mansion.

Michael Beaumont, the Seigneur, was served with a writ of summons at the harbour-side as he boarded a boat to Guernsey for a funeral this week. "The Barclay brothers are claiming that Breckhou is constitutionally separate from Sark and they are filing their case at the court next week," Mr Beaumont said.

"I hold the island for the Crown and up till now no one has questioned that Breckhou is part of the fief of Sark. We will defend that position," Mr Beaumont inherited his title from his grandmother, the Dame of Sark, who survived the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands during the Second World War and who died in 1974. "The relationship

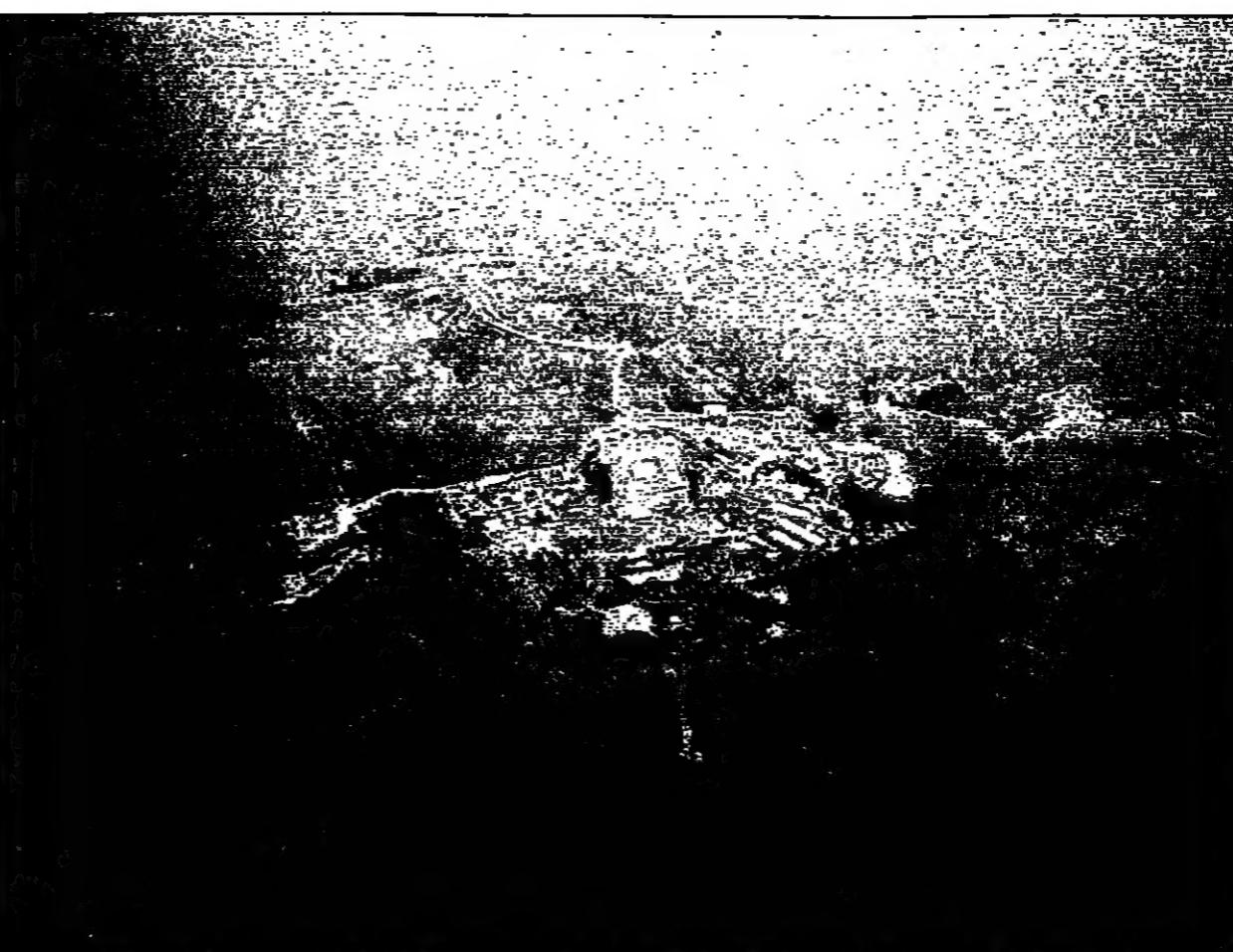


man declined to comment yesterday.

Sark's ultimate court of appeal is the judicial committee of the Privy Council, according to the Home Office. "We are aware that an action is being brought in relation to reclaiming the *treizième* tax and seeking a declaration on the constitutional position of Breckhou," a Home Office spokeswoman said.

The Barclays were born in London of Scottish parents and left school to train as estate agents. In the 1960s one of their early business ventures was to buy boarding houses in Bayswater and turn them into hotels.

Their present fortune is largely derived from property deals involving buying and selling hotels, including the Howard Hotel on the Thames Embankment and the Ritz in Piccadilly.



Breckhou, which is 1,000 yards long, has been in the fiefdom of Sark since 1565. Elizabeth I allowed it to be colonised to stop pirates hiding there. Separated from Sark by 100 yards of water, it once belonged to Jersey

between Sark and Breckhou has lasted perfectly well for more than 400 years and it seems very silly to challenge it now," Mr Beaumont said.

When the 61-year-old brothers bought the island they paid a feudal property tax to Mr Beaumont, which they are claiming should be repaid.

The *treizième* tax, paid to the Seigneur when a property within the fiefdom is sold, is a thirteenth of the price.

Their primary case is the constitutional position, but if they prove that Breckhou is separate from Sark, then that money might have to be repaid," Mr Beaumont said.

The fiefdom of Sark is owned by the Crown but let on a perpetual tenancy to the Seigneur, whose duties include maintaining 40 strong men with muskets to defend the territory. Historical documents show that Breckhou was once separate from Sark. Papers from 1160 include the island within a Jersey fiefdom.

Jennifer Cochrane, one of 12 deputies to Sark's Parliament, the Chief Pleas, said that Sark's 550 islanders were furious about the brothers' legal challenge. "They want to build their own little fiefdom on Breckhou and be completely separate from everyone else," she said. The Barclay brothers are represented by Strappini Havard and Co, a firm of Guernsey solicitors. A spokesman

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Elizabeth allocated Breckhou to the Seigneur of Sark, a title that passed to Michael Beaumont

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The last Old Devil



Exclusive serialisation of the Amis Diaries starts tomorrow in The Sunday Times.

These are the controversial journals kept by Sir Kingsley Amis's biographer, Eric Jacobs, which have led to a feud with the Amis family.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW



# Kohl's heir fuels single currency pessimism

BY GEORGE BROCK, EUROPEAN EDITOR

THE START of the European Union's single currency may have to be delayed beyond 1999, according to Helmut Kohl's political heir-apparent in one of the most pessimistic assessments yet to appear from the German Government's upper echelon.

Wolfgang Schäuble, parliamentary leader of Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic party, aired his doubts about whether monetary union could start on schedule to the author of a biography due to be published yesterday. "It could be — and I think that this is not entirely improbable — that the currency union cannot start in 1999," he is reported to have said.

Senior German politicians, up to and including Herr Kohl, have dropped hints previously that the start date would have to be put back from the planned January 1999. But Herr Schäuble, who is extremely close to the Chancellor, has not expressed his doubts so clearly before.

Although the Maastricht treaty allows rules to be bent, EU governments are supposed to reduce public debt to austere low levels by the end of next year. Germany's public deficit is predicted to reach 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product this year, well above the 3 per cent target. France



Schäuble: aired doubts in new biography

Leading article, page 21

## Kiss on the neck may be quite incidental

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

THE ITALIAN Supreme Court yesterday overturned a Sardinian man's prison sentence for sexual harassment, declaring that kissing a female colleague in public on the neck was not a criminal offence. "There are lustful kisses and non-lustful kisses," the judges said. "This one was non-lustful."

The man, named only as G.D., was accused of kissing his colleague "without her consent". A Cagliari court jailed him for 16 months but, on appeal, the Milan judges ruled — somewhat controversially in the view of many male and female Italians — that the neck was "not an erogenous zone".

Cases of sexual harassment are comparatively rare in Italy, where unthinking male chauvinism goes largely unchallenged and the media are saturated with titillating images of scantily clad women. But the growing feminist movement has begun to alter attitudes, and laws have been passed to toughen sentences for violence against women.

The Milan judges concluded that a distinction should be drawn in law between "lustful kisses on the lips, in a clear display of desire and intoxication", and "normal kisses, such as those on the neck or cheek".

"Normal" kisses were permissible, the ruling said, and should not to be included under "crimes of libidinous violence" Italian law.

BY RICHARD OWEN

ART critics called yesterday for an emergency campaign to save Italy's treasures after the collapse of Noto Cathedral in Sicily, a jewel of baroque architecture.

Antonio Paolucci, the Culture Minister, arrived in Noto yesterday to inspect the damage caused by the collapse of the dome into the interior of the cathedral, which was completed in 1770. The great twin towers and the facade are intact, but the rest gapes open to the sky.

The Bishop of Noto, Mgr Salvatore



Noto Cathedral before the collapse. Art critics say the disaster is symptomatic of the neglect of Italy's heritage

## Italian anger as cathedral dome falls

BY RICHARD OWEN

Nicolosi, said he had watched with horror from his balcony as the great dome caved in, "crumbling like a biscuit" and sending a pillar of white dust into the air. "I thought at first that it was another earthquake," he said.

The cathedral, like Noto's other 18th-century buildings, was erected after the Sicilian earthquake of 1693 by the baroque architect Rosario Gagliardi. Noto is one of the most visited sites on the island, and was used by Michelangelo Antonioni as a backdrop for his film *L'Avventura*. But the cathedral has been shored up with scaffolding in recent

years, a lack of funds hampering restoration. Art critics said the Noto disaster was symptomatic of the neglect of Italy's heritage. At the end of January, another baroque gem, La Fenice opera house in Venice, went up in flames and local officials stand accused of ignoring the fire risk. Last month, Signor Paolucci disclosed that Italy was losing 30,000 art objects a year to thieves because it lacked the staff and resources to protect them.

Less than 0.5 per cent of the national budget is spent on the preservation of historic treasures, even though they provide huge tourist revenues.

## French 'gang boss' plays to gallery

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCIS "The Belgian" Vanverbergh, an alleged kingpin of the French underworld, swaggered into a Marseille court this week to proclaim his innocence on drug smuggling charges.

Known to the French police as "the last Godfather of Marseilles", The Belgian is a figure straight out of central casting: his record is horrific but his jaw is firm, his suit impeccably tailored and his hair neatly combed. For three

decades, he has been in and out of prison, fighting a running battle which came to a climax last year when the European Court of Human Rights ordered the French state to pay him £11,000 in damages after keeping him in prison without trial for more than four years.

The Belgian's victory was short-lived, however, and this week he was back in the dock, accused of smuggling 44lb of heroin into the US in 1985.

This was impressive under-

statement. Mr Vanverbergh is a product of the notoriously tough Belle-de-Mai neighbourhood of Marseilles. His first conviction, for robbery, came at the age of 18. Allegations against him since have ranged from arms offences to gangland killings, drug smuggling and pimping; for 20 years he was listed among France's most wanted men.

If convicted, Mr Vanverbergh faces up to 40 years' imprisonment.



Vanverbergh: told court "I am a delinquent"

## Poachers kill white rhino

Geneva: Poachers in Zaire have killed one of the 30 wild northern white rhinoceros left in the world, the World Wide Fund for Nature said. The male animal was killed last month in the Garamba national park. (AFP)

## Hear, hear

Paris: The French parliament voted to ban portable stereos producing more than 100 decibels after doctors said listening to loud music with earphones was damaging young people's hearing. (Reuters)

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**ABBOT ALE**  
FROM GREENE KING



Peking times next round of exercises to straddle island's elections and vows to reunify nation

## China to launch new war games in Taiwan Strait

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday announced another round of military exercises in the Taiwan Strait. The ground, naval and air war games, which will straddle elections in Taiwan, are likely to reduce euphoria brought about by American assertions that Peking has no plans to invade.

Peking also announced the end of eight days of missile tests in the narrow strait dividing Taiwan from the mainland, but said the new war games will start on Monday and last until March 25, two days after Taiwan's first direct presidential elec-

tions. Meanwhile, live-fire exercises are continuing in the southern strait.

A commentary to be published today in China's leading newspapers says that "a prosperous China must be a unified China; a strong China must be a complete China".

Diplomats said that this seemed to indicate that Peking believed Taiwan should be part of China, by military conquest if necessary. Peking has never given up a commitment to reunite the country.

"The historical trend of re-unification is irreversible," the editorial says. "We should

never allow one single inch of land to be split off our motherland's territory." In what appears to be a reference to America, the editorial also advises foreign "meddlers" not to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The US Defense Department said that it had received assurances from Peking that China did not intend to take any military action against Taiwan. Reports of these assurances led yesterday to a rise on Taipei's stock market and also in the value of the Taiwan dollar.

Envoy in Peking, while still of the opinion that China will not invade Taiwan in the short term, warned of the consequences of an accident as American battle groups gathered off eastern Taiwan.

The official news agency, Xinhua, reported last night that all four missiles involved in the tests this week, believed to be Scud-like M9 surface-to-surface rockets, had hit their designated targets. This demonstrated "the fine military and political quality of the second artillery force", Xinhua said.

Xinhua said the People's Liberation Army would conduct joint ground, naval and air exercises in and over a sea area formed by a line connected by four points. It gave coordinates that formed an uneven oblong in the northern sector of the strait. Analysts said this round of exercises seemed likely to edge a little closer to Taiwan.

"For the sake of safety, the Chinese Government requests the Governments of relevant countries and the authorities of relevant regions to notify ships and aircraft of their countries and regions not to enter the said sea area and air space during the period," Xinhua said.

path. The charter prices range from about £1,200 to £3,000 for each group.

Several such groups have already been organised and will shortly set off to await the arrival of the nuclear-powered carrier, the newspaper reported. The USS *Independence* and its escorts are already about 100 miles east of Taiwan, but the USS *Nimitz* is expected to arrive in the area a few days before the island's presidential elections next Saturday. (AFP)

An official photograph shows the launch of one of China's missiles from a land-based launcher

President Lee Teng-hui addresses a presidential election rally in Taipei yesterday



## Diplomatic tone fails to sweeten the bitter reality

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

AS FEARS of war temporarily recede in Taiwan, the ultimate problem remains: the island and Peking are both Chinese and the roots of their conflict strike deep.

The news that Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, and his generals have assured Washington that they have no immediate invasion plans is well known here and some of Taiwan's top officials are sending equally reassuring signals. Frederick Chien, the Foreign Minister, said yesterday that President Lee Teng-hui had no plans for further foreign trips. It was Mr Lee's visit to his American alma mater last year that triggered the most recent crisis.

Mr Chien also crowed that Peking had over-reached itself, little imagining that Taiwan would resist vigorously. Equally important, and influential in Peking, although Mr Chien did not say so, has been the American naval power near Taiwan which Washington has brandished but not wholly explained.

But when this crisis ends and President Lee is, in all likelihood, elected next week, Taiwan's essential independence will remain, as will its democracy, the two elements in the situation that Peking cannot and will not endure.

The presidential election,

the first in Chinese history, highlights these elements and the crisis yet to come. When Chiang Kai-shek and his son Chiang Ching-kuo, who set in motion the move towards democracy, ruled Taiwan, Peking accepted silently that they had been appointed by political cronies who were refugees from the mainland. Both Chiangs also maintained the fiction that some day they would reassume power in China as a whole.

But with the advent of the native-born Lee Teng-hui, a man whose cultural origins are in many ways Japanese — he was educated largely in Japan, speaks Mandarin with a Japanese accent, and had a brother who was killed serving in the Japanese army — Peking faced a new situation.

No matter who is elected next week, it will be a national-style President, and it will be a genuine election. Neither is acceptable in Peking, where national leaders emerge from inner-party conclaves and the population finds out later. Furthermore, such an election could signal to some of China's restive provinces, such as Tibet and Muslim Xinjiang, that breaking away is possible. A noodle seller explained that simply yesterday: "Hah. Thirty-six small countries. Just like Russia."

Taiwanese tour de force

Taipei: Enterprising Taiwanese tour companies are chartering cruise ships to take sightseers to watch one of the two American aircraft-carrier battle groups preparing to monitor Chinese military exercises off Taiwan. *China Times* reported yesterday.

Besieged by inquiries from people eager to get a glimpse of the *USS Nimitz* and its escorts, now on their way from the Gulf, the firms have organised cruises that they hope will intersect the force's

path. The charter prices range from about £1,200 to £3,000 for each group.

Several such groups have already been organised and will shortly set off to await the arrival of the nuclear-powered carrier, the newspaper reported. The *USS Independence* and its escorts are already about 100 miles east of Taiwan, but the *USS Nimitz* is expected to arrive in the area a few days before the island's presidential elections next Saturday. (AFP)

## Premier fumes over smoking in parliament

BY JAMES PRINGLE

CHINESE parliamentarians were rebuked by Li Peng, the Prime Minister, yesterday for smoking too much, and when one delegate to the annual session of parliament boasted

about increased alcohol production he was told that Chinese should drink less alcohol and more fruit juice.

Smoke-filled backrooms at political gatherings in Europe and the United States may be a thing of the past, but

Peking's Great Hall of the People, where sessions of the National People's Congress are taking place, has been fuggy this week with tobacco smoke, despite no-smoking notices.

Informal gatherings of parliamentarians have been well-oiled with grain alcohol, as is the habit with business banquets across China where drinking duels are often staged. But when Mr Li walked into a conference room in the Great Hall yesterday and saw packets of ciga-

rettes for sale, he exploded. "Selling cigarettes here!" he thundered.

"I suggest we people's deputies set an example in observing the no-smoking ban in public places," he said. The deputies dutifully chorused "Good", according to Xinhua news agency.

Then when the mayor of a town in Shantung province proudly boasted that liquor-making has made "marked progress" there, the austere Mr Li stepped in again. He said that

too much of China's grain output was going into distilleries.

"Drinking fruit wines is helpful to our health, does not waste grain, and is good for social ethics," he said, as delegates again responded with applause.

With 350 million smokers, China does have a serious smoking problem, and an American medical journal said last year it was a "public health emergency" that could become a health disaster.

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## Russian MPs vote in favour of reviving Soviet Union

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

**T**HE Communist-dominated Russian parliament laid on a spectacular piece of political theatre yesterday by ruling the agreement that ended the Soviet Union null and void.

Opposition deputies rose to their feet after overwhelmingly backing a resolution to overturn ratification of the Belavezhsk Agreement, signed by the leaders of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus in December 1991, which buried the Soviet Union and created the Commonwealth of Independent States. The vote was timed to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the March 1991 referendum, when most of the population voted in favour of maintaining the single state.

Yesterday's vote had more to do with pre-election skirmishing than constitutional reality. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader who is the main challenger to President Yeltsin in the June presidential elections, said it was the first step in a gradual recreation of the Soviet Union which would accelerate when he won the presidency.

But President Yeltsin immediately condemned the vote as pre-election manoeuvring that would inflame tensions in former Soviet republics. "Neither Ukraine nor any other of the former union republics will go back into the Soviet Union with a red flag, so why does the state Duma take decisions like this?" he asked.

In an interview with Russian television on Thursday, Mr Yeltsin said the disintegration of the Soviet Union had been unstoppable. He said his own plans for economic integration between the former republics were now speeding up. The Communist

Zyuganov: "the first step towards a single state"

resolution was "doing great damage to Russia", he said. "The Communists are saying this for the sake of politicking, for the sake of the elections, while because of the process of integration we are winning very serious political points."

Liberals mocked the resolution as political fantasy. One of them, Sergei Yushenkov, said voting to reconstitute the Soviet Union was about as useful as voting to declare an end to winter. Several deputies pointed out that most of the Communists in the former Russian parliament had voted to ratify the Belavezhsk Agreement in December 1991. Pressed on this point, Mr Zyuganov said: "We have a good opportunity to correct our mistakes."

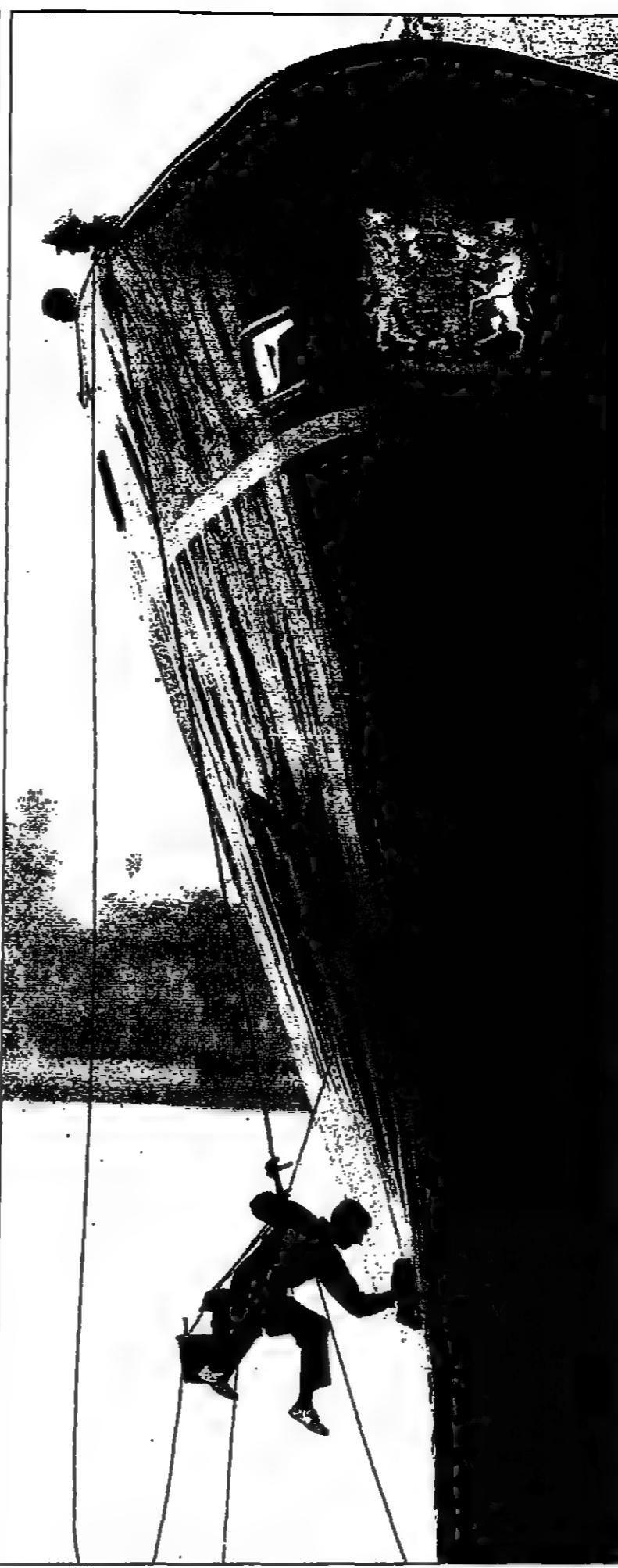
Several Communist deputies hinted darkly that this was only the beginning and that if they came to power, Mr Yeltsin and others who engineered the Belavezhsk Agreement would be brought to trial. "They will not be brought to account now," Anatoli Lukyanov, a former Speaker in the Soviet parliament said. "But time will pass and history will judge them."

Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the ultra-nationalist, blamed the CIA for destroying the Soviet Union in concert with Mikhail Gorbachev. "Their manoeuvres began in 1985; they finished in 1991," he said.

The Duma's decision will probably provoke much more reaction in the newly independent states, such as Kazakhstan, which has a large and vocal Russian minority, than in Russia itself. President Shevardnadze of Georgia told *Moscow News* last week that any serious attempt to recreate a single state could lead to civil strife throughout the former Soviet Union.

**Chechen overture:** The Kremlin yesterday approved a new initiative to end the 15-month conflict in Chechnya, where fierce fighting between government troops and separatist rebels continued (Richard Beeson writes).

Speaking after a special meeting of his Security Council, President Yeltsin refused to give details of the plan, which he said he would release in a televised address to the nation later this month. But according to senior Kremlin officials, President Yeltsin is to propose a peace forum made up of the pro-Moscow Chechen government, traditional Chechen elders and moderate figures among the rebels.



Leading Seaman Bluey Cunningham repainting the bow of the Royal Yacht Britannia. The vessel is in Florida, where the Duke of Edinburgh is due to attend several Palm Beach charity functions

## Peres regains lead in polls

**J**erusalem: Shimon Peres, Israel's embattled Prime Minister, received a crumb of political comfort yesterday when two respected opinion polls showed him regaining the lead over his right-wing rival in the election on May 29. Binyamin Netanyahu (Christopher Walker writes).

Mr Peres's rating declined sharply after recent Hamas bombings left 61 dead.

The polls, which gave Mr Peres a three-point lead over Mr Netanyahu, the Likud leader, were cited by relieved members of Mr Peres's Labour party as evidence that the Jewish nation has not yet lost

all faith in the chances of maintaining some form of peace process.

The surveys were conducted to coincide with the anti-terror summit meeting in Egypt on Wednesday, when 28 countries rallied around Israel in its battle with Hamas suicide bombers.

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## Dole mobilises wounds of war against Clinton

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

**T**HE War Hospital at Battle Creek is long gone, but the building that once housed wounded veterans has become a symbolic and highly significant part of Bob Dole's campaign for the White House.

It was to Ward 10 of this former army medical hospital in Michigan that the young Mr Dole was admitted in 1945, his body ripped apart by a German shell in Italy. For almost three years he was confined to the room and was still swathed in a full body cast, unable to feed or clean himself, when he returned to his home in Russell, Kansas.

For the first time since his treatment after the Second World War, Mr Dole made a deliberate detour to Battle Creek this week to revisit the scene of his greatest suffering and return to a central theme of his campaign for 1996.

"It is about character," said Mr Dole, who now seems certain to win the Republican nomination. "It is about growing up in America. About knowing what made America great. About having made a little sacrifice for America. It certainly changed my life."

There was no direct comparison made between his record and President Clinton's avoidance of the draft in Vietnam, but the implication was clear.

"I don't talk about President Clinton," said the Kansas senator. "But I think voters should know who Bob Dole is. I don't think I have to hide the fact that I was a veteran."

Previously, Mr Dole has

made brief references to bouts of paralysis and depression inflicted by his wounds. He has lost a kidney, cannot use his right arm and has only partial movement in the left.

Mr Dole proposed to his aides that the hospital become a campaign stop in Michigan. The senator said he had visited the site once before but was unable to find the ward because the building had been converted into an office block in 1953. Blueprints this time provided the exact location of the room he had shared with seven other men, two of whom were destined also to become senators, the Democrats Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and the late Phil Hart of Michigan.

The Dole swing through Michigan and Ohio came as the tenor of the Republican campaign altered. No longer facing the challenge of Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, Mr Dole made only a cursory reference to Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator who has said that he will stay in the race for the nomination.

The clear focus in the past week has been to project Mr Dole as the undisputed rival to Mr Clinton and to bring an end to damaging divisions in the Republican ranks.

The Dole camp hopes that highlighting both the suffering and experience of their candidate will counter inevitable criticism from the Clinton campaign that the senator is too old to assume the presidency.

## Sponsors quit show that insulted Princess

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

**T**WO firms have withdrawn as sponsors of a new American television show after the country's best-known stand-up comic reportedly insulted the Princess of Wales on air.

Dana Carvey, a goofy impersonator who made his name on *Saturday Night Live*, America's equivalent of *Monty Python*, treated viewers of the first episode of his new show to a "Top Ten List" of possible new titles for the Princess. Number three on the list was "Slut"; number two was also "Slut"; then he pro-

posed: "The Slut formerly known as Princess."

The Taco Bell restaurant chain had agreed to sponsor four episodes, with Pizza Hut and other PepsiCo subsidiaries backing the remaining five shows in the series. After the first episode was broadcast, however, Taco Bell pulled the plug. Pizza Hut followed suit.

"Dana Carvey is one of the funniest comedians," Amy Sherwood said for Taco Bell. "But we're in the business of selling tacos and burritos, not offending people."

## VACANCY. MUST SPEAK FLUENT LATIN.



When the monks who lived at Bury St Edmunds abbey in the 13th century were allowed to speak (which wasn't very often), Latin was the holy order of the day.

Indeed, for a young novice entering the monastery, it was a sine qua non.

Fortunately, he would have found it far easier to get his tongue round the eight pints of the Abbot's Ale he was allowed in the evening.

The ale was brewed in the monastery with natural

spring water drawn from its own well.

Today we're still drawing water from the same source for our own Abbot Ale.

And while most other beers are fermented for just three or four days, Abbot is fermented slowly for a full seven ('Blessed by the Sabbath') to give it a rich, deep flavour.

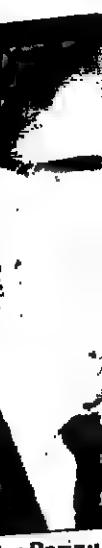
Many have declared it to be one of the finest real ales around. And even, on occasions, the ne plus ultra.



ABBOT ALE

FROM GREENE KING





Peter Baring

## SE con on tra

BY PATRICK

THE Stock Exchange's publishing daily has approved new trading systems, forcing a compromise between the City's all-powerful rule-makers.

But while the Exchange refused to give in to demands of some of the most influential members, who had wanted electronic order-matching to be limited to shares in smaller companies, it has also rejected Michael Lawler, the chief executive, and his screen approach to the old and new systems, which will run side by side.

In a progress report approved by the Exchange on Thursday, the Exchange is expected to say that in the wake of its consultation process, it has decided to keep the current quotation system with an order-matching system for all shares.

However, no details are given in the market, unusual

## BUSINES TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDEXES

FTSE 100 3644.8  
Feld 4.07%  
FTSE All share 1813.8  
Midex 20190.85  
New York  
Dow Jones 5568.72  
S&P Composite 641.12

US INDEX  
Federal Funds Yield 5.14%  
Long Bond Yield 9.0%  
6.74%

ADVICE ON RATES  
3-month Interbank  
Rate long on future £4.75  
104.1

EXCHANGES

New York 1.5252  
London 1.5255  
DM 2.2490  
Fr 7.7972  
Yen 121.57  
Euro 10.42  
1.5252

DOLLAR

London 1.4747  
DM 5.0252  
Fr 11.8832  
Yen 102.86  
\$ Index 98.7  
Tokyo close 102.705.85

COMMODITIES

Brent 15-day Mtn 517.40  
London close 3365.45 £/tonne  
denotes monthly average



**MELVYN MARCUS 26**

Our City Editor focuses on Thorn EMI demerger

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## WORKING WEEK 27

Working to make Littlewoods a market leader

## SPORT 42-48

Bruno fighting for the right to be taken seriously

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MARCH 16 1996

Watchdog to discipline former Barings executives

## Peter Baring agrees to quit



Peter Baring: assurances

By ROBERT MILLER

A SENIOR City watchdog yesterday served notices of disciplinary proceedings against a number of former executives over their supervisory role in the £860 million collapse of Barings.

The Securities and Futures Authority, the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, which has been investigating 12 former senior Barings employees, also announced that Peter Baring, the former chairman, will never work in the City again. Andrew Tuckey, the deputy chairman, who together with Mr Baring resigned from the merchant bank after expressing "deep regret" at the events leading

up to the crash, has agreed to a restricted role in the City.

Mr Tuckey is the only one of the 12 under investigation since last July to be allowed to continue to work in the City during the inquiry. He has been acting as a corporate finance consultant to ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group that bought Barings. He advised on a number of major City deals, including the £6 billion takeover of TS8 by Lloyds Bank.

It is understood that the formal link between ING and Mr Tuckey, who could be in line for a bonus enhanced remuneration package of £500,000, will be severed at the end of this month, although he may continue to

advise the Dutch combine as a freelancer.

The SFA said it had found no evidence indicating that responsibility for the Barings crash could be attributed to the actions of Mr Baring or Mr Tuckey. Nevertheless, the watchdog added, it had sought certain assurances from both men about the future. Mr Baring confirmed that he did not wish to re-enter the investment business. The SFA said Mr Tuckey had agreed "not to seek in the foreseeable future any position in an investment house which would require his registration by SFA as a senior executive officer, or as a director, unless his duties are limited in scope to the provision of corporate finance advice."

The SFA is not expected to press ahead with disciplinary charges against all of the remaining ten under investigation. Geoffrey Barnett, former chief operating officer, is one of those who will not face any further proceedings. Those whose roles in the crash has been looked into include Peter Norris, former chief executive officer, Tony Hawes, treasurer, Ron Baker, head of the financial products group, Mary Waltz, global head of equity products, and Tony Gamby, the settlements director.

The executives who have been served notices of proceedings face a range of penalties from fines plus costs to playing a restricted and more

closely supervised role in the securities industry. The ultimate SFA sanction is to expel an individual from working in the City indefinitely.

At least three of the executives under investigation by the SFA are due to appear before the Commons Treasury Select Committee which has re-opened its own inquiry into the Barings collapse. Those likely to be questioned closely by MPs are Mr Baring, Mr Tuckey and Mr Norris.

The Bank of England will also be summoned to give evidence again. Committee members have expressed their serious reservations over the Bank's role in supervising Barings before the crash just over a year ago.

## SE to force compromise on electronic trading plan

By PATRICIA TEAHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Stock Exchange will publish details next week of its proposed new trading system, forcing a compromise on the City's all-powerful market-makers.

But while the Exchange has refused to give in to the demands of some of the City's most influential market-makers, who had wanted the new electronic order-matching system to be limited to trading shares in smaller companies, it has also rejected plans by Michael Lawrence, its former chief executive, for a split-screen approach in which old and new systems would have run side by side.

In a progress report, to be approved by its board on Thursday, the Exchange is expected to say that in the wake of its consultation process, it has decided to replace the current quote-driven system with an order-matching system for all shares.

However, to retain liquidity in the market, unusually large

blocks of shares will be traded on a so-called "upstairs" system, through which market-makers put their own capital at risk.

By choosing this method of introducing electronic order-matching, the Exchange wants to ensure that it preserves the ability of institutions to do unusually large deals, while meeting demand from an increasingly diversified set of investors.

It is unlikely the new system – in which orders to buy and sell will be entered on a central electronic order book and automatically executed when they match – will be introduced before spring next year.

The consultation process was started after the dismissal of Mr Lawrence in January. He blamed the objection of market-making firms to the introduction of an order-matching system for his enforced departure.

The Exchange has rejected the other options January's consultation document – an order book for some shares and continuing the current quote-driven system for others; or trying to accommodate both with a split-screen, or "hybrid" approach.

The report will lead to a further consultative document shortly in which the rules of the new trading system will begin to be defined.

Thursday's report will also highlight the need for decision-making from Treasury officials and regulatory bodies over outstanding issues, such as tax exemptions and other privileges currently enjoyed by market-makers. The Exchange's thinking appears to be that if firms are still taking risks with their capital, they ought to continue to be rewarded for doing so.

The Exchange is likely to say that there will be meetings with regulators to discuss the regulatory framework needed for the introduction of a new trading system. Current regulations date back much further than Big Bang in 1986 – some of them to the 1920s.



Black day: A worker covers the Fokker sign at its Amsterdam headquarters yesterday

## Turbulent end for Fokker

By ERIC REGULY

THE collapse of Fokker, the world's largest maker of regional passenger jets, sent shockwaves through the British aerospace industry yesterday. Short Brothers of Belfast, which made wings for Fokker, sent about 650 workers home and said that another 400 or so jobs are likely to disappear.

Rolls-Royce, where job losses are "possible but unlikely", supplied the planes' engines and will lose some £100 million in annual sales.

Analysts estimate that about half of the components for the Fokker 70 and Fokker 100 jets came from Shorts, BAE and many smaller electronics and systems companies.

Fokker's bankruptcy eliminated more than 4,700 jobs on the Dutch company's main assembly lines at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. The non-core businesses, including the space systems, electronics and aircraft services divisions, employing about 2,500, are to remain open.

The bankruptcy of the 77-year-old company came after the Dutch Government refused more credit to keep Fokker alive while it searched for a buyer. Daimler-Benz of Germany, Fokker's majority owner since 1993, withdrew its financial support in January because it could see no end to the company's losses.

As late as yesterday morning, Samsung, the South Korean industrial group, said it was still interested in taking control of the Fokker. But it failed to produce a firm offer. It appears unlikely Benz will come forward.

Roy McNulty, president of Short Brothers, said job losses had been scaled back from an initial prediction of 1,500 by eliminating some outside contractors and finding additional jobs in other production programmes. The Fokker contracts represented about 20 per cent of Shorts' £400 million annual sales. The 650 workers have been declared "surplus" but not yet "redundant".

## Simpson expected to join GEC

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GEORGE SIMPSON, chief executive of Lucas Industries, said yesterday he will not renew his contract with the company and he is now expected to be named as Lord Weinstein's successor as managing director of GEC. He is likely to take over the job in the autumn.

Lucas said in a statement that Mr Simpson "will remain in place until the board has completed an orderly transition". His current contract expires on March 31, 1997 and Lucas is unlikely to let him go until the company has

announced its full-year results in early October. It had hoped that he would renew the contract for a further year. Lucas will announce interim results on Tuesday, and its pre-tax profit for the last six months of 1995 is expected to be about £60 million, compared with £44.5 million a year earlier. It hopes its full-year results will confirm a solid recovery.

The company is seeking a replacement,

but City followers see no obvious ideal successor. One possible internal candidate is John Grant, finance director.

The arrival of Mr Simpson – paid £537,500 last year by Lucas – would be a

relief for GEC, which has been trying to recruit him for months. Investors took yesterday's announcement calmly. Lucas shares closed unchanged at 193p, while GEC was down 1p at 364.5p.

Mr Simpson will be expected to revitalise GEC, which analysts say has begun to show signs of stagnation after 34 years under Lord Weinstein. Investors hope Mr Simpson will unlock value by spinning off non-defence businesses, and GEC shares have risen in recent days on speculation about his appointment.

Mr Simpson was hired by Lucas two years ago after his success with Rover.

## WEEKEND MONEY

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Anne Ashworth on the new powers for building societies

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Year end hints. Tax savings for couples



## Fixed rates withdrawn by societies

By CAROLINE MERRELL

MANY of the UK's biggest building societies are withdrawing their fixed-rate mortgages and replacing them with higher rates because of the turbulent bond markets.

The uncertainty in both the UK and US bond markets has pushed up the cost of five-year money for societies. Many, therefore, have prudently withdrawn their rates. Some are taking the view that the UK has reached the bottom of the interest-rate cycle and are relinquishing their long-term fixed loans with rates around 0.5 per cent higher.

Other societies believe that the upheaval may be temporary and are staying out of the market for the time being. They hope to return with rates similar to the ones they have withdrawn.

Alliance & Leicester, National & Provincial, Northern Rock and Bristol & West are among those that have withdrawn their fixed rates.

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The Prudential special bonus. Your questions answered

## INVESTMENT

36-37

After the upset. Where next for the markets?

## WEEKEND MONEY GUIDE



Peps extra

Best buy income and growth plans

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Get your savings working harder with our high-income corporate bond PEPs

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Nationwide  
Woolwich  
Habitat  
Allied Dunbar  
Extra Income PEP

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4.8%  
4.6%  
7.8%

3.5%  
3.4%  
3.5%  
7.8%

2.1%  
2.1%  
2.0%  
7.8%

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\* denotes midday trading price

\*\* denotes midday trading price

\*\*\* denotes midday trading price

\*\*\*\* denotes midday trading price

\*\*\*\*\* denotes midday trading price

# How Sir Colin put the spin into Thorn EMI

**S**lowly but surely (if only one could say this about more components of British industry) Thorn EMI is progressing towards its long-awaited metamorphosis into Thorn Plc and EMI Plc.

The wisdom of slow but sure progress is something that Thorn EMI's shareholders have good cause to reflect upon. In the space of a year, Thorn EMI's share price has soared from a shade over £10 to £16.24; at which price, the company is capitalised at some £7 billion. Nor, with demerger scheduled for the summer, is the party over.

It was last August that Kleinwort Benson stole a few headlines with a circular on Thorn EMI that, by way of contributing a little speculative pazz, was not slow in coming forward.

The blurb read: "Recent corporate developments in the media and entertainment businesses and in rent-to-own in the US have required us to re-examine our valuation of a demerged Thorn

EMI. We present here our central case for a value of £17 per share. £15 per cent above the current share price." According to Kleinwort Benson, "corporate restructuring in the world media and entertainment businesses has left music virtually untouched."

That said, an independent EMI "could act as the vehicle for corporate change." Just for good measure, KB pointed out that should a bid materialise, an "auction" would almost certainly ensue.

KB's analysts, warming to their theme of a short, independent life for EMI Plc, listed those parties perceived to be interested in an "acquisition or strategic alliance." These were Viacom, Dreamworks SKG, Seagram/MCA, Disney and Microsoft.

KB inevitably emphasised the "scarcity value of EMI's copyrights. These embrace a back catalogue of more than 1 million songs, many never released. Even more have never been released on CD. With music enterprises tradition-

ally valued on a multiple of sales, KB pointed out that EMI paid £1.7x sales (£560 million) for Virgin in the spring of 1992. PolyGram paid 2x sales for Island in 1989 and Motown in the spring of 1993, while MCA paid 2.6x sales for Geffen Records.

Multiply EMI's 1994-95 sales of £2.1 billion by 1.7 and one comes out with a valuation of £3.7 billion. Multiply 1995-96's estimated sales of £2.5 billion by 2.6 and one reaches a valuation of £6.5 billion. The middle range: a shade over £5 billion.

In the event, KB placed a "middle" value of £2 billion on Thorn's "rent-to-own" operations, embracing Rent-A-Center, Radio Rentals and Crazy George's, while £350 million was chalked up for HMV/Dillons (to be retained in EMI Plc). A total of £7.35 billion implied a share price of £17.10 and the shares subsequently touched £17.26.

What inevitably caught the eye were the "upper" valuations. EMI's £6.5 billion calculation sits

alongside a £3.1 billion estimate for Thorn and a £500 million tag for HMV/Dillons. A total valuation of nearly £1 billion translates into a rarefied share quote of £23.50. KB's final message was that, come demerger, prospective valuations were likely to be closer to the upper end of the range.

Such was the flavour of analysis' think, so to speak, come last month's confirmation by Sir Colin Southgate, Thorn EMI's chairman, that demerger is under way. Southgate, who joined Thorn EMI in 1983, has spent more than a decade patiently restructuring the company. Exit the likes of lightning, defence, security and the loss-making Rumbelows chain. Enter Rent-A-Center, acquired in the US in 1987, followed by what has proved to be a shrewd purchase of Virgin Music from the man who flies in balloons.

Far be it for the press to focus on anything as boring as a successful restructuring operation. What the scribes wanted to know was whether a takeover bid for EMI, complete with its EMI Capitol, Parlophone, Virgin and Chrysalis labels, was on the way. Southgate, with an eye to his fiduciary duties, declared: "EMI isn't for sale. But if a megalomaniac came along and offered me top dollar, a foolish price, I'd tell our shareholders that they should take it."

Southgate also took the opportunity to reveal a 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £429 million (£33 million) for the nine months to end December last, on turnover up 13.4 per cent at £3.8 billion. EMI, benefiting from hit albums from The Beatles, Blur, Supergrass, Smashing Pumpkins and Garth Brooks, raised operating profits from £25.7 million to £31 million, on turnover up from £1.6 billion to £2.1 billion. Not bad for an enterprise which, just five years ago, was perceived as the dog of the music industry.

Indications are that the original demerger timetable, which coincides with the close period in relation to Thorn EMI's first-quarter results for 1996-97, will be delayed by a matter of weeks. The AGM/EGM is now expected in mid-August, with trading in EMI Plc and Thorn Plc due to start a matter of days later.

EMI Plc is clearly a potential bid target, though much of the speculation is mere hype. Southgate has made no secret of his belief that synergies between the film and music industries are highly debatable and has consistently

emphasised that bids from the likes of PolyGram, Time Warner and Sony would all encounter monopoly barriers.

Then again, Southgate will win few laurels if he orchestrates a demerger whereby an undervalued EMI is snapped up at the outset of independence. Thorn's rerating would appear to have staved off this threat, so much so that the City is slowly but surely being educated as to the attractions of Thorn's rent-to-own operations, where the quality of earnings appear significantly higher than the image. Crazy George, which rents furniture and consumer products to low-income customers, is perceived as a high-growth operation and is clearly cashing in on the high proportion of the UK population with little or no access to credit.

Mercury Asset Management, (presumably hopeful that a megalomaniac just might appear) has raised its stake in Thorn-EMI to a shade over 11 per cent. Other shareholders should sit tight.



MELVYN MARCUS

## Cornhill ahead at £73.5m

BY MARIANNE CURPHEN

**CORNHILL** Insurance yesterday expressed growing concern at the effects of fierce competition in the insurance market as it unveiled a 12 per cent increase in 1995 profits to £73.5 million, from £65.5 million in 1994.

The company, a subsidiary of Allianz, Europe's largest insurer, said the increase was achieved in spite of a 4 per cent fall in general business premium income to £602.8 million from £627.4 million.

Ray Treen, chief executive, said: "The industry enters 1996 with barely adequate rating levels and the virtuous cycle of good weather and lower claims frequency seemingly at an end. All the ingredients for the negative part of the profit cycle are in place."

Life insurance premiums fell 25 per cent to £87.4 million in "difficult market conditions". Part of that fall was due to the company not repeating a single premium bond issue which had achieved considerable sales in 1994.

However, investment and other income increased by 22 per cent to £86.2 million and its general business solvency ratio at the year end rose to 69.7 per cent.

## Tietmeyer call for Britain to re-enter EMS

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANS TIETMEYER, President of the Bundesbank, yesterday urged Britain to participate in a revived European monetary system, even if it chooses to opt out of the single currency.

Dr Tietmeyer, who was addressing a conference in Dublin, said: "If the United Kingdom stays out I hope we can find an arrangement where the likelihood of exchange rate deterioration is avoided."

Other European Union countries have expressed concern in recent months that countries which remain outside monetary union will make competitive devaluations of their currencies, thereby poisoning trade relations.

Dr Tietmeyer's comments are likely to prompt embarrassment in the Government, which has remained cool towards the idea of rejoining a European monetary system since Britain's humiliating exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) in 1992.

But Dr Tietmeyer insisted that a revived European monetary system, with the single currency as an anchor, could regulate foreign exchange re-

lations for EU member currencies outside the euro. He said: "The arrangement for pegging these countries could take the form of a modified European Monetary System or EMS II."

Dr Tietmeyer added that the new system should allow wide-fluctuation margins to discourage speculation and, in special cases, floating exchange rates should be allowed without actually abandoning the exchange-rate criteria.

A regular review of exchange rates by the Council of the European Central Bank would prevent a recurrence of the problems that broke the exchange-rate mechanism by allowing the adjustment of unrealistic exchange rates.

The president of the Bundesbank also took a firm line on meeting the Maastricht convergence criteria, saying that dilution of the criteria could prove fatal to monetary union.

He lent renewed support to the tough post-monetary union stability pact outlined by Theo Waigel, the German Foreign Minister, which includes heavy fines for EMU participants who relax fiscal policies.



## Pub group toasts success

BY MARTIN BARROW

**SURREY FREE INNS**, the operator of public houses in southern England, won the inaugural best new entrant to AIM award in the 1995 Coopers & Lybrand PLC Awards, which were held in association with *The Times*.

Anthony Hill, managing director of Surrey Free Inns, was presented with the award

by Stephen Hazell-Smith, of Rutherford Asset Management, the award's sponsor, and Richard Stone, the deputy chairman of Coopers & Lybrand UK.

Surrey Free Inns joined the new Alternative Investment Market in June last year at 85p a share. The shares peaked at 185p in January,

valuing the company at £19 million. Surrey Free Inns operates 24 pubs, many of them with restaurants and hotel add-ons.

Labbat, the Canadian brewer, has a 4 per cent interest in the company. Other contenders for the AIM award were ASK Central, Memory Corporation and Trocadero.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Cookson pays £57m for US plastics group

**COOKSON**, the specialist industrial materials company, continued its expansion abroad with the purchase of US Engineered Polymers Corporation, an American plastics business, for £57 million. EPC is based in Minnesota and specialises in structural foam and injection-moulded plastic products. Cookson said that EPC was a natural fit for London plastics, part of Cookson's specialty moulding plastics division. In 1995, EPC made an operating profit of £6.3 million on a turnover of £44 million.

Richard Oster, chief executive, said the deal would enable Cookson to accelerate its expansion in new markets. The shares continued their recent rise, closing up 1p at 305p. Strong year-end results are expected from the group this month, with profits predicted to climb from £120 million to £180 million.

### NS nets £708m

**NATIONAL SAVINGS** made a net £708 million funding contribution towards the Government's borrowing requirements in February compared with £1 billion in the previous month. Total gross sales last month were £1.3 billion compared with a record £1.6 billion in January. The highest net contributors were Pensioners Bonds at £31 million, Premium Bonds at £146 million and Fixed Interest Savings Certificates at £12 million.

### Bell losses deepen

**BELL CABLEMEDIA**, the UK's third largest cable company, reported a net loss of £47.4 million, against a loss of £26.4 million, in the year to December 31. The loss was expected and was due to the extensive spending and depreciation charges on its network. Cable-TV and telephone penetration rates were flat, at 22 per cent and 24.2 per cent, respectively, but the company said a new marketing campaign should lift those figures later this year.

### Molins profits up 24%

**PROFITS** at Molins, the tobacco machine company, were 24 per cent higher last year at £29.8 million, after a review of pensions accounting that reduced 1995 profits by £400,000 in favour of 1994 figures. The 1995 profits increase came despite higher interest charges of £2.2 million (£1.4 million), but net cash at the end of the year was £6.8 million (1994 borrowings £6.4 million). The dividend is 20p (up 17.6 per cent), with the final payment of 14.1p due on May 21. *Tempus*, page 28

## BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S REDUCED RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 17 MARCH 1996

Account	Balance	Annual Interest	Monthly Interest
Monthly Saver (Premium Rate)*	£10+	6.75	5.06
First Choice <sup>†</sup> (Including Bonus)	£30+	1.25	0.94
	£300+	2.85	2.14
	£3,000+	3.35	2.51
	£10,000+	3.85	2.89
	£25,000+	4.25	3.19
Special Assets	£2,500+	3.30	2.48
	£3,000+	3.70	2.78
	£10,000+	4.70	3.53
	£20,000+	5.15	3.86
	£40,000+	5.30	3.98
	£80,000+	5.60	4.20
Premier Deposit*	£1+	0.25	0.19
	£100+	0.75	0.56
	£10,000+	3.50	2.63
	£25,000+	4.25	3.19
Privilege follow-up TESSA# (Including 0.75% p.a. bonus)	£9,000+	6.25 <sup>‡</sup>	-
	£6,000+	7.00 <sup>‡</sup>	-
	£9,000+	7.25 <sup>‡</sup>	-
Preference follow-up TESSA~ (Including 0.50% p.a. bonus)	£3,000+	6.50 <sup>‡</sup>	-
	£7,000+	7.00 <sup>‡</sup>	-
Special Interest Bond	£300+	5.75	4.31
<b>ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS</b>			
Accounts	Balance	Annual Interest	Monthly Interest
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equivalent % p.a.
		Gross % p.a.	Net Equivalent % p.a.

## Wembley back on the road

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

**WEMBLEY**, which owns and operates the country's most famous sports stadium, yesterday established itself firmly on the comeback trail, announcing a reduction in losses to £8.1 million in 1995 from £36 million in 1994.

Wembley is hosting several major events this year and is optimistic that it will win its battle with Manchester to become the national sports stadium and secure lottery funding for a planned £170 million redevelopment. Wembley is aiming to build an entirely new stadium around the famous twin towers.

Operating profits jumped 68 per cent to £19.7 million due to a big improvement at the Wembley complex, which rose by over 50 per cent to £9.2 million, and from the company's US greyhound operations, where profits increased by more than two thirds to £10.3 million. UK greyhound operations were hit by the

lottery and fell back by 7 per cent to £2.7 million.

Wembley's huge debt pile, which brought the company to the brink of bankruptcy last year, was brought under control with gearing falling from 324 per cent to 42 per cent and predicted good progress.

Wembley also announced that it was making a court application to eliminate the debts on distributable reserves in order to be legally allowed to pay a dividend, though it was cautious on the prospects of a pay-out this year. The group has not paid a dividend since 1992 and not made a profit since 1990.

Last May the company launched a £120 million refinancing package, including a £63 million rights issue.

Wembley shares fell 2p to 365p.

*Tempus*, page 28

## Mowlem makes £30m loss after shake-up

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

**JOHN MOWLEM**, the construction group, yesterday took the brunt of costs for the sweeping reorganisation that it instigated last autumn, although its operating profits showed some health.

The company, which in September pledged to "cut the throats" of its loss-making businesses, fell into a pre-tax loss of £30 million for the year to December 31 after recording a profit of £4.8 million the previous year.

It lost £18.6 million in discontinued unprofitable businesses, £5.8 million on its sale last year of London City Airport and £14 million from costs

associated with a long-running legal battle over a housing development in west London.

## A WORKING WEEK FOR: BOB WILLETT

# A fierce desire to see Littlewoods relabelled as a market leader

**Sarah Bagnall**  
meets a man  
aiming to join  
the retail  
premier league

Monday	C
Tuesday	C
Wednesday	C
Thursday	C
Friday	C

BOB Willett is seeing money vanish before his eyes — and he's ecstatic. This strange admission from the managing director of the Littlewoods chain of stores becomes more baffling when he admits that staff are to blame.

Reclining further into his chair, Diet Coke in hand, Willett proudly proclaims: "Staff discounts are up nearly 70 per cent." He says the fact that staff are buying Littlewoods goods is wonderful. "It's one of the best judgements we could have."

Although the rise is undeniably welcome, there is no escaping the fact that it has come from a very low base — "so low I'm too embarrassed to reveal the figures", he says. But the rise serves as an important sign that the stores' performance may finally be on the way up.

The 130-strong chain of high street Littlewoods stores has long been considered drab, downmarket and a laggard to the rest of the retail sector. In 1995 the business managed to squeeze a paltry £30 million of profit out of sales of £700 million.

With profits representing 4.3 per cent of sales, the chain has been well and truly stuck at the bottom of the third division, looking up enviously to Marks & Spencer at the top of the premier league with a 13 per cent return.

Willett, 48, knew he had a challenge on his hands when he accepted the managing director's job nearly two-and-a-half years ago. Littlewoods, the retailing and football pools giant, had hit a bad patch. Owned by the Moores family, Littlewoods is Britain's biggest privately owned business with sales topping £3 billion.

In recent years the group's performance has suffered from a revolving boardroom door, tough competition in mail order and the arrival of the National Lottery, which has slowed the waterfall of cash from its pools business.

But the group is debt-free and, in spite of tales of feuds and infighting among the 32 family shareholders, the Moores family recently opted to stay private rather than sell off the businesses piecemeal to the highest bidders.

Willett's route to Littlewoods was via a string of other retailers. A Welshman, his first — and longest — sojourn was at Marks & Spencer, where he spent nine years, and where he learnt the values and benefits of having a strong brand.

But a gnawing desire to influence matters, and press the buttons of power, prompted him to jump ship to Debenhams, then he darted to Woolworths, followed by a quick pit stop at Ward White, before joining Gateway, the supermarket group that became the trading arm of Isosoles as a result of one of the biggest leveraged buyouts in the United Kingdom.

He ultimately became chief executive but in October 1992 upped and left when the heavily-indebted food retailer was in the throes of a restructuring.

His next stop was Littlewoods. "The first thing I had to do was assess the issues and then develop a strategy," he says. A central plank in the ensuing five-year plan was the decision to build a brand and



Retail rocket: Bob Willett believes the battle for him is not just a case of changing the product, "you have to change the people as well"

after months of planning the new label — Berkertex — was launched in ladieswear last September. "Berkertex will be our St Michael. Marks took 100 years to get there but we have to get them much quicker. Ultimately everything, we sell will be Berkertex, except for children's wear," he says.

This important landmark in the drive to lift profits and sales is the reason behind the sharp rise in staff purchases. Every Monday morning, Willett sits down with his finance director at the Liverpool headquarters and goes through the results for the previous week. Sales, margins and profits are all scrutinised, giving Willett the chance to monitor the success of every line, including the all-important Berkertex brand.

The 90-minute meeting kicks off at 8.30am and is followed by separate meetings with the buying, operations and marketing teams for each of the business units. "I hear how each of the lines is doing, what the competition is up to, and what needs doing to counter any moves. We discuss all the issues and the actions the teams are taking," he says.

As Berkertex is key to the future success of the business, monitoring its performance is vital and as new lines under the brand are introduced the Monday morning meetings provide critical feedback. Recently the ladieswear business unit revealed that "we had had a fantastic week on blouses and so we discussed what we should do and decided to order in another 3,000", he says.

This Monday, Willett will get a first impression on how the Berkertex range, launched on Wednesday, is being received by shoppers.

Willett brushes aside criticisms from Littlewoods watchers that he is taking too long to introduce the new brand. "You can't do it quickly. It's not just a simple case of changing the product, you have to change the people, the buyers and get the right supplier base. So it's an enormous change. If you do it quickly then you are going to get it wrong," he says.

Willett is a research junkie. No decision or move will be made until he is properly furnished with the relevant facts. "It's very much about the marathon not the sprint. Turning the business round and evolving it in a controlled way, using lots of research," he argues.

Motivations of a different kind feature in Willett's life. Next week he and a band of colleagues embark on a lengthy training programme with the goal of running in the London Marathon next year. A more immediate challenge is the Great North Run in Newcastle upon Tyne this autumn. This is just one of several group activities to take place at Littlewoods. Recently, around 100 staff went ten-pin bowling and last year employees across the entire group raised a large sum of money

two thirds of his day is structured, with a string of regular meetings to deal with finance, trading, store development, training and the product.

The remaining one third is left free for store visits and to give him time to walk about the building, talking to staff. "You have to leave time free to react to events and issues. You have to be able to respond to the business, to be able to pick up on issues and add value," he says.

Willett spends the week in Liverpool, where he has a flat, and then drives for three hours every weekend to join his wife and children at the

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Besides learning lessons from one store that can then be passed down the chain, he also picks up on any gripes that staff may have. One example is that shortly after he arrived he discovered there was a lot of disgruntlement over the man-made fibre used for the uniform. Staff thought it was old-fashioned and uncomfortable. "So we sat down and designed a new uniform. It's now in 40 stores and we are rolling it out," he says.

Willett believes that communicating with staff is the key to helping to drive the business forward. Suggestion schemes and regular communication sessions are a few of the ways

he tries to involve and empower staff so that they can help to turn the business round.

Willett writes to all the stores every four weeks to update them on the key issues

— trading, store openings and customer complaints. "I tell them what the complaints have been and how many. If you don't share the problem how can you expect them to help you resolve it?" he asks.

Willett is now about two years into his five-year plan and the first tangible results are beginning to emerge. A refurbishment programme is helping to lift sales, while all

the group's lines bar the children's wear will be trading under the Berkertex brand by early in 1998. Profits will be boosted by a further £20 million as a result of a £40 million programme to overhaul the distribution process.

The foundations are being laid, the investments made, and the business is now pointing in the right direction. Over the next few years, Willett hopes the business results will reflect all his hard work and he will be presiding over a retail leader, not a laggard.

## HIDDEN ASSETS

# Sun Alliance fire marks are hot property

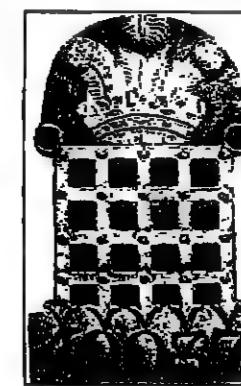
Marianne Curphey visits an insurer's collection of restored artefacts

**E**mergency services often complain that bad numbering of houses creates problems even in the well-organised street grid of the late 20th century. Early firefighters had to cope not only with medieval street layouts but with unnumbered houses.

Insurance companies managed by attaching decorative metal plaques to the outside of buildings they insured so that their fire engines could find their way. Originally made of lead, the identification panels were known as fire marks and bore the emblem of the company and the policy number.

One of the oldest insurers, Sun Alliance, has its own collection of these distinctive marks on display at its Bartholomew Lane headquarters in the City. Its fire marks were rescued from storerooms in offices around the country 20 years ago. Blackened by age and suffering from neglect, they were restored to their former glory by David Hill, Sun Alliance's archivist. A gentle scrub with soap and water revealed the gilded lettering of the four original Fire Offices — the earliest form of insurance company — which were eventually joined together under the Sun Alliance banner.

Most of the original Fire Offices employed their own fire brigades, and the marks indicated which brigade was primarily responsible for fighting a fire. Contrary to popular belief, they did not simply allow other properties to burn if they were not insured with them, and most companies had reciprocal arrangements for dealing with fires in their areas.



each policyholder was sent a replica.

The Sun Fire Office, founded in 1710, issued around 924,000 of the numbered lead marks in the form of a rising sun, gilded all over, with a blue background and black numbers. The Alliance, founded in 1824, acquired lesser companies to secure a fire portfolio, a strategy it followed into the 20th century, culminating in the merger with the Sun in 1989.

The London Assurance was founded in 1720. It joined Sun Alliance in 1985. The Phoenix, which had a distinctive emblem, was founded in 1782 and merged with Sun Alliance and London in 1984.



Emma Allen of Sun Alliance admiring the marks

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### THE SUNDAY TIMES

The popularity of George Simpson during his rise from the accounts department at British Leyland to the helm of General Electric Company says much for his diplomatic skills. His ambition is well camouflaged ...

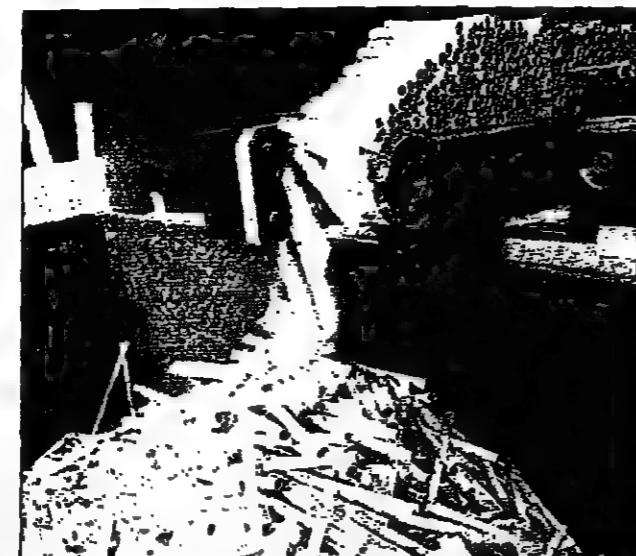
Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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The Woolwich Cashback Plus Mortgage is available to all new mortgage customers and existing Woolwich customers on the move. The rate is variable and the APR is variable and typical and calculated on the assumption that the discounted mortgage rate will apply for the full term of the loan. However, after the first year, the Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in fact, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 9.2.96 and the mortgage completed by 31.7.96. Typical example, based on an interest only loan, an interest rate of 4.25% 4.5% APR this represents a discount of 3.5% off the Society's standard variable mortgage rate, currently 7.25% 7.5% APR and a purchase price of £70,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £32,000 over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 74% of the purchase price). Total amount payable £70,751.00, 4.25%, 4.5% APR. A first charge over your property will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance of 75%. If the mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in part) or transferred to another society before the 25th anniversary of the date on which you will need to pay an arrangement fee, will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance of 75%. If the mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in part) or transferred to another society before the 25th anniversary of the date on which interest is first charged in respect of the mortgage, the value of the cashback you have received must be repaid in full and a redemption fee equivalent to the savings made as a result of the discount will be required. The redemption fee will be subject to a maximum of 5% of the original mortgage amount. The cashback may affect personal liability to Capital Gains Tax. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from Woolwich Direct, PO Box 600, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6UE. Woolwich Direct is a service provided by Woolwich Building Society which represents only the Woolwich Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance and unit trust business.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# US interest rate fears give investors a scare



Molins, the cigarette machine manufacturer, rose 21p

FURTHER evidence that the US economy is gathering pace, thereby putting paid to any further cuts in interest rates, left the London stock market nursing sharp falls at the close.

After a volatile week investors in London were in no mood to resist Wall Street's downward pull in early trading yesterday, which left the FTSE 100 index 37 points lower at 3,644.8. That is a fall on the week of 65.5.

This latest setback followed publication of the latest US industrial production figures showing an unexpected sharp rise of 1.2 per cent in February. Dealers fear the figures may have put paid to any further rate cuts for the time being, even though the Dow Jones average was showing signs of composing itself ahead of the triple witching hour.

Traders will be anxious to forget the past few days after the 17-point plunge in the Dow that rounded off last week. Much of yesterday's fall was futures led. Brokers in London say Wall Street has further to fall, pointing to continuing losses among US Treasury bonds.

Last night the June series of the financial future was trading at a 13-point discount to the cash market, signifying that further falls in London may also be on the cards.

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finished the session 15p better at 844p, with the speculators pondering the prospect of its making a full bid for Unitech at some stage.

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Overnight buying of British Steel spilled over into London where the price climbed 54p to 191p on turnover of almost 14 million shares. Brokers say the support for the shares on both sides of the Atlantic has been prompted by talk of a pick-up in steel demand. There is also talk the group may proceed with a share buy-back.

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## INVESTMENTS 33

A pensions guide for working women

# WEEKEND MONEY

The Weekend Money team give some timely advice on putting readers' tax affairs in order

## Married couples race the taxman

**M**arried couples who fail to make maximum use of their extra allowances could end up putting up to £473 into the taxman's pocket next year unless they act in the next three weeks.

Changes in last November's Budget that will cut the tax deducted from building society, bank and other deposit accounts from April could also lose married, higher-rate taxpayers 20 per cent of their potential investment income if they do not plan now.

**Married allowance**  
All married couples qualify for extra allowances before they start paying tax on any income. But this is automatically paid to the man unless couples tell the Revenue differently before April 5 this year. Paying the allowance to the man makes little sense if the woman pays tax on income from earnings or pensions and the man does not, according to Maurice Fitzpatrick, manager at Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant. Women with non-taxpaying husbands can unilaterally ask the Revenue for half the married couple's allowance to go to them in 1996-97. Alternatively, they can agree with their husbands that the whole allowance should go to the woman. Doing this will bring most advantage to the over-75s who get the largest married couple's allowance, worth £473.25 next year. But couples between 65 and 74 will still get an allowance worth £467.25. The allowances of couples over 65 will be restricted if their income is more than £15,200. Those under 65 have an allowance worth £268.50.

Confusingly, official tax tables will list much higher allowances. The under-65s allowance is £1,791 in 1996-97, the under-75s, £3,115 and the over-75s, £3,155. But the actual value of the allowance to everyone, regardless of what tax band they are in, is now only 15 per cent of this. The idea of the 15 per cent restriction is to make the value of the allowance the same for everyone.

Successive Chancellors have chipped away at its value with such force that it remains a shadow of its former self, but it can still be a useful way of reducing tax bills legally for many couples.

**Quick action inside three weeks could cut your bill says Sara McConnell**

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## Advisers say get relief while you can

Anne Ashworth looks at rules

Labour might be keen to target

**T**he taxing intentions of Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, loom large in the advice being given by some accountants to their moneyed clients this month (Anne Ashworth writes).

Although Labour is yet to disclose its plans, the natural inclination of accountants is to anticipate the worst, and to recommend to clients that they exploit tax-saving reliefs while they are still available.

David Rothenberg, of Blick Rothenberg, the London firm, for example, points out that if Tony Blair were to triumph in a summer or early autumn election this year, "it would not be impossible for the incoming Labour government to amend tax rates for the 1996-97 tax year, starting on April 6, 1996".

Among those recommending defensive action against the possibility of a Blair victory in

the next election is David Oliver, tax partner at Arthur Andersen. He believes that Labour would, in particular, seek to limit capital gains and inheritance tax concessions.

This view is based on Mr Brown's public pronouncements on the need to raise more revenue from CGT, which contributes no more than £2 billion a year to the Exchequer. Mr Oliver also cites *Tackling Tax Abuses*, *Tackling Unemployment*, a Labour Party document from November 1994, which mentions "billions" lost to the Exchequer in tax avoidance through trusts.

Withdrawing many of the inheritance and capital gains

reliefs would be relatively straightforward, according to Mr Oliver.

Among Labour's targets could be the inheritance tax transfer rules, allowing you to give away wealth during your lifetime, free of IHT, provided that you survive for seven years after making the gift. "The richer you are, the more valuable these exempt transfers are. For example, someone aged 50 and worth £2 million may feel he can give away £1 million and live quite happily off the rest. This means that £1 million is removed from his estate, saving £400,000 in tax."

Capital gains reinvestment relief, which enables you to

defer tax on the gains from the sale of a business, provided that you invest the cash in a new venture, could also be in Labour's sights.

Another likely target is hold-over relief. This allows owners of family companies to pass on shares to their families and to elect to hold over the capital gain. Mr Oliver explains: "This means that, with the potential exempt transfer reliefs from inheritance tax, many owners can move assets around the family or into trust without incurring any tax liability." Other capital gains concessions that may be in peril include retirement relief, which can be claimed by anyone aged 50 or more selling a business. No tax is payable on the first £250,000 worth of gains. The tax is reduced by 50 per cent to 20 per cent on gains of between £250,000 and £1 million.

## The blip went thataway

**O**n week on, what happened to that "crash"? Chinese imperial forces have fired live missiles in threatening manoeuvres off Taiwan to show what they think of democracy there, jangling a few nerves in the area. In Hong Kong, which is to rejoin the empire without the option next year, shares dropped about 6 per cent in a week. But this was hardly the end of the world. The Hang Seng index is still up nearly 30 per cent over 12 months.

Aside from that, so far, local difficulty, fear does not seem to be stalking the world's counting houses. Interest yields on bonds have edged up about a quarter of a percentage point on both sides of the Atlantic. Shares are still marginally down. And that is about it. Most significantly of all, private investors do not seem to have been fazed. Americans in particular are getting used to these mid-course corrections.

Last Friday night, it all seemed so different. The Dow Jones average of American blue chips had dropped 3 per cent in a day and the shock wave was about to hit other markets. Worryingly, the price drop had come out of blue sky, just as in October 1987, when shares had risen 40 per cent in a year and were scaling new peaks.

The Dow lurched so abruptly because a cosy assumption underlying the latest buying round had suddenly looked false. Wall Street was banking on the next movement in short-term interest rates being down. But bond prices have been edging lower for several weeks. Short-term interest rate futures, which show where traders think short rates



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

will be in up to two years' time, had already jumped more than a point. When a single, not necessarily representative, statistic showed a big rise in employment in February, dealers lost their collective nerve. Why should the next rate change be down? As the US economy picked up nicely from a temporary lull, there was little reason to expect the Federal Reserve to change its policy stance at all.

This underlying tension has not gone away. Share prices have risen awfully fast in America, nearly twice as fast as in Britain. The gap between the Dow and London's FTSE 100 share index has opened to its widest for 15 years. Average dividends are little more than half those available on UK shares. The US Treasury's long bond yields about 6.7 per cent, long-dated British gilt-edged stocks about 8.4 per cent.

Such big differences are hard to justify on fundamentals of growth and inflation. Despite the tide of domestic money

surging into Wall Street via mutual funds, the conditions are still in place for a setback to American securities prices. This week's calm in financial markets suggests, however, that Wall Street can accommodate a pause to let the economy catch up with prices without panic setting in. This is reassuring to investors in London, where share prices have marked time for three months for much the same reason.

In conventional stock market cycles, the end of a bull market is like an extended wave. First, short-term interest rates rise, then long-term rates follow. The interest influence on shares finally overcomes the influence of booming company profits and the wave breaks six to nine months later. Markets are still at a relatively early stage of this cycle. The Federal Reserve is unlikely to raise rates for a while, even if it is no longer likely to cut them. In Britain, further base rate cuts are still possible. On the Continent, they are happening and should continue.

The relatively stable economy of low inflation, modest growth and careful fine-tuning by monetary policy should offer similar qualities to investors. There is little reason for share prices to be drastically cyclical because small interest rate adjustments should constantly compensate for above-trend or below-trend growth — with the usual time lag. So investors should not fear putting money into gilt-edged stocks, let alone UK shares. As usual, however, regular saving smooths out the bumps and it is easier on the nerves.

Market update, pages 36 and 37



## BIG GIVEAWAY 35

Payback policy at the cash-rich Pru



## Capital gain can be costly for investors

**T**his year, many private investors will, for the first time, have to confront the intricacies of capital gains tax, once a problem only for the rich.

The Inland Revenue CGT rules allow investors an annual exemption of £6,000, rising to £6,300 on April 6. Tax is payable on gains above this limit, at your highest rate of income tax, currently, 20 per cent, 25 per cent or 40 per cent. Husband and wife each have their exemption. Annual exemptions cannot be carried forward, but you can set losses from previous years against gains made in the current year.

You should also consider bed and breakfasting shares you wish to continue to hold. Put simply, this means selling and buying back shares overnight to crystallise a gain or loss, which should limit exposure to sudden stock market movements.

For example, your investment could have made a £3,000 gain during the year. If you sell and buy back the holdings now, at the lowest cost you can, you will not have to pay CGT. If you do not, you take the risk that when you eventually come to sell the investment, your gain will be more than the £6,000 annual limit.

You should also consider bed and breakfasting if you have realised a gain in excess of your annual limit, but have other loss-making investments.

For instance, you may have held shares in the Eastern regional electricity company, which was taken over by Hanson last year. Proceeds from the takeover could exceed your annual exemption limit.

Cashbacks, handouts of as much as £10,000 given by building societies to borrowers, may also be liable to capital gains tax, depending on the way in which the money was used.

Philip Fisher of Chantrey Vellacott, the accountancy firm, recommends that anyone who suspects that they may have a CGT liability should consult an accountant. It may be possible to dispose of a loss-making investment to reduce your overall gains.

An accountant will suggest that you make the best use of their exemption by bed and

CAROLINE MERRELL

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

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## Societies try to master delicate balancing act

**B**uilding societies are holding back from cutting savers' rates in the wake of last week's base rate cut for fear of alienating their customers and possibly pushing them into the arms of their competitors.

Societies which want to stay mutually owned rather than being taken over are coming under increasing pressure from their members to produce tangible proof of the benefits of mutuality through better rates for savers and borrowers. Large bonuses on offer from societies converting or merging have forced mutuals to fight back.

At least one society, the pro-mutual Derbyshire, has pledged to keep savers' rates steady, while cutting its standard mortgage rate to 6.99 per cent from May 1. Roger Hollick, the society's chief executive, said: "Whichever way interest rates move next we shall, in the changed environment, make sure that our savers and borrowers get ongoing visible and tangible benefits from being with the Derbyshire."

Others say they are not planning to cut rates they have just raised to encourage customer loyalty. The Nationwide, which caused a stir three weeks ago by announcing lower mortgage rates and higher savers' rates, says it has no plans to cut savers' rates back. Nationwide customers started earning 0.2 per cent more on average on their savings from the beginning of this month, as the society ploughed some of its

profits into better rates as a demonstration of its good faith. But if savers' rates fall generally, the Nationwide admits it may be forced to follow suit.

The Nationwide's competitors, the Halifax, Abbey National and Woolwich, all said this week they had no plans to cut savers' rates, although they privately admit that if one breaks ranks, they all will. The Woolwich and the Halifax, which have both announced plans to convert to public companies, deny they have a captive audience of savers who do not want to lose their chance of a bonus by moving out funds. The Woolwich said: "There is no evidence from our money in our records that

people feel trapped. People do use their money."

Societies which have cut rates claim they have done so selectively, holding up rates on accounts most popular with small investors. The Portman, whose chief executive, Ken Culley, is chairman of the promotional Building Societies Association, has cut savers' rates by 0.25 per cent on average but has kept its instant access account rate the same, at 4.8 per cent gross on balances of £100 and above.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester, now part of Lloyds Bank, has cut rates on its London and Cheltenham Gold accounts but left rates unchanged on Direct 30 and Best 90, which it says are among its most popular.

SARA McCONNELL

We shall make sure our savers and borrowers get visible and tangible benefits

Morag Preston on errors that can be made on rates



Mike Wonnacott is angry about a slip by the Northern Rock Building Society over its interest rates

## Confusion riles savers

**A**s savers, chasing better rates, flood into building societies, some have unwittingly been given the wrong information by hard-pressed staff. As a result, some consumers feel hard done by when they discover that the rates or terms they were quoted over the telephone do not correspond with their actual account.

Mike Wonnacott, managing director of a small leasing company in Northamptonshire, felt misled by the Northern Rock after he was quoted the wrong rate for its 90-day postal account. He already had £10,000 in his 90-day account, but wanted to add £15,000 and telephoned the building society for advice.

Mr Wonnacott found that there had been a mistake only when his passbook was sent back to him with a letter of apology from the Northern Rock, explaining that he had

been mistakenly quoted the higher rate for its 120-day account. Northern Rock said: "It is possible that confusion may have arisen at a time when we were receiving thousands of inquiries about our newly launched Postal 120 account."

Mr Wonnacott says of rate changes: "The principle at stake is the society's posturing as a high-rate payer to attract funds, and then giving a poor rate, before the ink is dry in the passbook. The whole point of long-term saving is to provide a stable rate."

One of the major attractions

of postal accounts is that customers need never step into their local building society, so it is hardly surprising that most investors never see the displays in branches advertising a change in interest rates. Similarly, notifications of a cut in rates placed in national and local newspapers can be easily missed.

Irritated by a drop in the rate on his Northern Rock account, another *Times* reader wrote to the society to query matters. It was only then that he learnt of a change in the conditions of use. He said: "To my surprise, I also found out

that my account, although called 'postal', could now be operated through their branches as well."

Postal accounts, operated entirely via the mailbox, offer rates that are about 1 per cent higher than conventional accounts.

The reader was angry that he had not been told by the society in writing, and claims that, as a result of the society "moving the goalposts", he has lost as much as £200 in interest since 1993.

Northern Rock says: "The fact that the account can be operated through a branch has no bearing on the rate offered ... Reduction in rates can no more be described as a downgrading of the account than an increase in the rates can be described as an upgrading."

Meanwhile, there is concern that more societies will trim their savings rates after last week's base rate cut.

Karen Zagor offers guidance to savers on securing a specified interest rate for a set period

## Time to get into an investment fix?

**W**ith the equity market suffering from an extreme bout of the jitters and inflation apparently well under control, investors may now be turning their attention to fixed-interest investments. These promise to pay a specified rate for a set period, at the end of which your capital should be returned in full. Most investments are safer than equity investments, but only gilts are entirely without risk.

Whether or not you invest in fixed-interest products will depend largely on whether you expect interest rates to rise, hold steady, or fall in the coming years. Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the financial adviser, says: "If you think interest rates are going to go up, then it doesn't make sense to put money into fixed-interest products. But if you think rates will stick for a while, they make a lot of sense. There is also the attraction of knowing exactly what you can expect to earn from these products, which makes it easier to plan your finances." It is important to remember that

fixed-interest investments are a good source of income, but they rarely provide much, if any, capital growth. And the value of your capital may be eroded if inflation rises more steeply than the fixed rates during the life of the investment.

National Savings Certificates have fallen steadily in recent years, in line with declining base rates. But the 43rd issue, with a tax-free yield of 5.35 per cent, is still good value, especially for higher rate taxpayers. To benefit from the full rate, the certificates must be held for five years. There is no interest if the certificates are redeemed in the first year, and a reduced amount will be paid if they are redeemed before their full term. Interest is paid on encashment.

**Tax-Exempt Special Savings Accounts (Tessa)** Tessa come in fixed and variable forms, and any income generated is free from tax. With a Tessa, you must invest for five years, although

you can take some of the interest each year. If you do, the interest income will be taxed. You can invest up to £3,000 in the first year and up to £1,800 in each of the subsequent four, for a total of £9,000.

**Guaranteed Income Bonds** Issued by insurance companies as lump sum investments, they promise a set return over a specified period. Income is usually paid free of basic rate income tax.

The Inland Revenue yesterday dismissed speculation that it is proposing changes in the tax treatment. The Government has already announced plans to publish draft legislation on life assurance policy holder taxation in the spring. "If, as a result, there are changes to the way guaranteed income bonds are treated for tax purposes, they will not apply to those bonds already in issue," said the Revenue.

**Permanent interest bearing shares (PIBS)** These are special shares issued by the bigger building societies that pay a set rate of interest twice a year. Income is paid net of tax, but gains are free from capital gains tax. However, there is the possibility that the shares will be worth less when you sell than when you bought them. In addition, if the society runs into trouble, it may not be able to meet its interest payments.

**Gilts** These are bonds issued by the UK Government. The Government borrows the cash you use to pay for the bond. In exchange, it promises to pay a fixed rate of return. At the end of the term, the capital is repaid. Gilts can be bought and sold on the stock market, and you can sell your gilts before they reach maturity. They can be bought through banks, or stockbrokers on the National Savings Stock Regis-

ter. The latter is usually the cheapest way to buy gilts, with charges of 0.6 per cent for the first £5,000 and 0.35 per cent on larger amounts. If you buy gilts on the stock register, interest is paid gross, although the income is taxable.

**Corporate Bonds** These are similar to gilts, but are issued by companies. There is a greater danger that, if the company fails, it may default on the loan. As a result, corporate bond rates tend to be higher than gilts. Interest is usually paid twice a year.

**Debentures** Debentures are a form of corporate bond, where the loan is secured by specified company assets.

**Preference shares** These are company shares that pay a fixed dividend. They can be a good source of income, but there is a risk that the shares' market value will have fallen when you decide to sell. If the company issuing your preference shares falls on hard times, dividends will be

paid to preference shareholders before ordinary shareholders.

Preference shareholders also take precedence over ordinary shareholders in a liquidation, although they come after bond holders in the list of debtors. There is no fixed life for the shares.

**Convertible bonds** These are shares or corporate bonds that pay a fixed rate of interest and confer the right, on a specified date with set terms, to be converted into the company's ordinary shares, usually at a premium of 10 to 25 per cent above the price at the time of issue. Yield is usually higher than ordinary shares, but lower than corporate bonds.

**Corporate bond Peps**

These invest in fixed-interest securities. At least half of the fund must be invested in corporate bonds, preference shares and convertibles to qualify for Pep status. The remaining half of the fund can be invested in whatever the fund manager chooses, including gilts.

## A QUESTION OF MONEY

### Springing into an unsecured personal loan can be costly

**A**long with the twittering of birds, springtime apparently brings a rush of borrowing. According to banks and building societies, we are just itching to buy a car, book a holiday and fit a new kitchen — and they are more than happy to lend us the money.

So this month the Royal Bank of Scotland is offering customers a "springtime discount" of 1 per cent off the APR of its personal loan rate.

Abbey National is telling its customers to "make life more complete" with a personal loan of £3,000 or more because it comes with a free rotary watch. And Alliance & Leicester says you can "get more out of life" with discounts on its loan of up to 3 per cent.

However, the reality is that most personal loans will leave you feeling anything but springlike.

**Q** What is an unsecured personal loan?

**A** A loan, typically between £1,000 and £15,000, that requires no security against assets, such as property. Instead, the lender will decide whether to give you a loan on the basis of your credit rating.

You will need to provide details of your employer, salary, monthly outgoings and so on. Because there is no security, rates are high. While the bank base rate has dropped to 6 per cent and the standard mortgage rate to 7.25 per cent, personal loan rates can still be more than 20 per cent and very few dip below 15 per cent. The rates tend to be fixed over an agreed term, usually from one to five years.

**Q** From where do I get it?

**A** Banks, building societies and retailers often give customers what they call preferential rates but it is worth shopping around.

**Q** How much will it cost?

**A** Lenders may talk of headline or flat rates, but the best one still to look at is APR (annual percentage rate). APR should take into account charges and compound interest (the interest paid on interest). However, lenders do calculate APR in different ways so it is better to ask how much the loan will cost each month and multiply that by the number of months you will be paying.

Another option is Save & Prosper's base rate-linked card, which has an APR of 11.4 per cent. The only drawback is that the average credit limit is £2,000 — not enough for that car, holiday or kitten you so desperately want.

**Q** What length of term should I go for?

**A** In general the more you borrow the lower the interest rate will be and

Money tables, page 38

SARAH JONES

## National Savings

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- 5 The bond is to be held jointly with one other person complete section 4.
- 6 Surname \_\_\_\_\_ All forenames \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth [ ] (MM) [ ] (YY)
- 7 I understand the purchase will be subject to the terms of the Prospectus.

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**NATIONAL SAVINGS**

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## Jack of all trades or master of one?

**N**ext Monday, legislation will be unveiled allowing building societies to do all sorts of splendid new things. Selling motor insurance and making more loans to business are just two examples. The reforms aim to provide a framework for the brave, new building society of the next millennium.

Whether or not you think such changes are a good thing depends on your view of what a building society should be. Do you want to deal with a diversified financial services emporium, catering for every loan, insurance or investment need? Or would you prefer a simpler organisation, offering competitively priced savings and mortgages?

The societies themselves have requested these extra powers, presumably in response to demand from customers. The personal

ambitions of chief executives to make a mark are, of course, not involved.

However, the desire to move into non-traditional areas would appear to run contrary to recent public pronouncements from those societies that wish to remain as mutuals. The Britannia, the Nationwide and the Yorkshire are among those who maintain that they have no ambitions to become banks. These societies are committed to giving old-fashioned value to their members.

In light of this, why would they be interested in extra commercial lending, car cover and other bank-type activities? One reason why societies should be less than eager to branch out is that past excursions into other areas, such as estate agency, have not been hugely successful. Last week, the Bristol & West's profits were reduced by an awe-



### COMMENT

**ANNE ASHWORTH**  
Personal Finance  
Editor

inspiring £33.9 million loss from its ill-fated purchase of Hamptons.

The possible repercussions of the new legislation will fill customers with some dismay. But all is not gloom. Members of societies will be allowed to vote on major diversifications (what a relief). It is also expected that the Building Societies Ombudsman will acquire more muscle, perhaps to cope with all the problems arising from such ventures.

Woolwich free-for-alls. The enfranchisement of depositors should, however, allow them to join in the next round of takeover fun. A relaxation of the rules should make it possible for foreign banks to acquire societies.

### Pru's old excuse

THE Prudential's excuse for giving policyholders the mouse's share of its surplus assets is that shareholders with share accounts enjoy the right to vote, and so qualify for flotation or merger payouts. Those who have unwittingly chosen deposit accounts have no votes and do not receive cash or shares. Unfortunately, this rule change will not benefit the thousands of depositors, shut out from the Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, National & Provincial and

bought the shares in the Twenties and Thirties, a detail that somewhat weakens the Prudential's argument.

It is easier to make a compelling case for the rights of today's policyholders. They have seen high administration and management charges deducted from their premiums, which acted to reduce their returns. They have also endured a period of falling bonuses. A larger percentage of the surplus asset distribution would help to make amends.

While they wait to see how much they will receive, Pru policyholders can take comfort in the Legal & General example. At first, L&G policyholders seemed to stand little chance of any largesse. Now they are being nicely taken care of. Would the Prudential dare to look mean compared with a smaller rival?

## Provide against the ravages of time

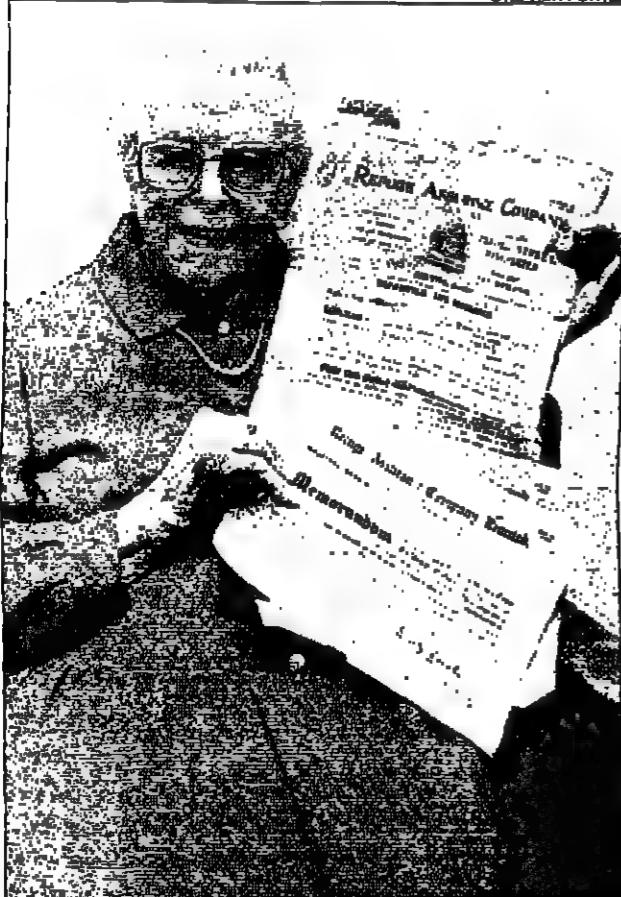
### Beware shortcomings in life policies and insist on safeguards, says Karen Zagor

they had been uprated for inflation over the years.

Terry Black, sales and marketing director at Refuge Assurance, said: "Both of Mrs Smith's policies were non-profit whole-of-life contracts.

Even so, the reduced amounts would have gone much further in 1938 than they do today. According to the Central Statistical Office, the policies would be worth about £162 and £124 respectively if

STEPHEN PORTER



Mrs Smith's early-century policies, worth £8.40 today

"I can appreciate Mrs Smith's concern about her funeral arrangements but regret that due to the cessation of premiums the value of the contracts was greatly reduced."

When Mrs Smith's mother took out the policies, non-profit policies were the norm. "We had 3.2 million policies in force in 1908 and 2.9 million were whole of life, including the infant death policies, and they were all non-profit," said Mr Black. "At a time of no social services, people wanted to avoid paupers' graves. Basically, these policies were a way for people to put money aside for burial."

When Mrs Smith was born, the life expectancy for a female was 52.4 years. Most of the early policies were designed to last 20 or 30 years, and there was less concern about the impact of inflation.

Refuge Assurance no longer sells infant death policies. They were popular earlier in the century, when the child mortality rates were very high.

Today, parents can buy child endowments. Although these do have a life element, they are primarily ways for

parents to set aside money for their children to use in their early adult years. It is also unlikely that anyone would take out a life policy today that did not have a profits element.

Yet there are lessons we can all learn from Mrs Smith's situation. Fiona Price & Partners, the independent financial adviser specialising in women's finances, said: "It is vitally important to ensure that any life assurance cover offers a

facility for the sum assured to be reviewed, and increases made in line with inflation so that the benefit maintains its value in real terms. Always check that the policy offers the flexibility to change the level of cover in the future."

Many of today's policies have review periods built in. It is usual to have a review after ten years, and then every five years. This allows holders to make sure they have a sufficient level of cover, and to increase premiums, if necessary. Reviews are particularly important if your circumstances have changed, perhaps by having a child or changing jobs.

Fiona Price says: "It should

be remembered that we are now living longer. In some circumstances, a policy that offers a balance between life cover and savings may be more appropriate, or cover which provides a lump sum on diagnosis of critical illness."

Even if Mrs Smith had been able to take out a more modern policy, with regular reviews and a with-profit element, it is possible that she could find herself in a similar situation to her position today. With life policies, it is critically important to maintain premium payments throughout the term of the policy. Otherwise, the value of any benefit will be diminished or lost, even today.

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The regulations give discretion to the managers to vary the pricing basis of units. Trustees', Registrar's and Auditor's fees are paid by the fund.

Commission is payable to approved intermediaries on 3% on amounts up to £24,999, 2% from £25,000 to £99,999 and 1% from £100,000.

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The Managers are Portfolio Fund Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5TP. Telephone 0171 638 0808. Fax 0171 638 0050. (Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and by IMRO). Members of AUTIF.

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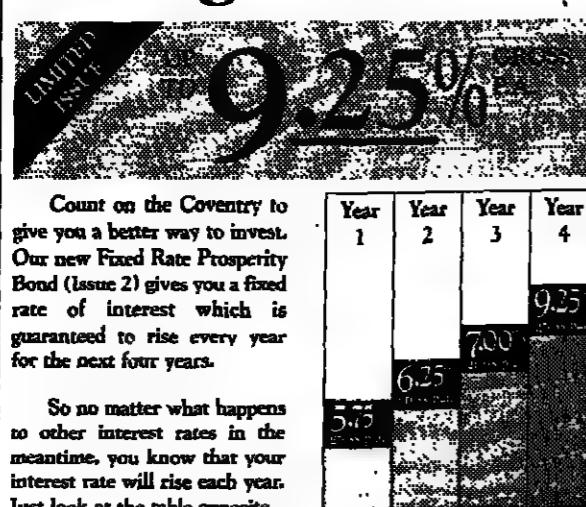
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# Why it pays to play your cards right

**Sarah Jones on the newcomers in a crowded credit market**

We all know it is quicker to go down-hill than uphill — except when it comes to credit card interest rates. Swift to follow base rate increases, credit card issuers are proving stubbornly small-like as we see the base rate tumble.

The latest drop in base rates to 6 per cent, however, has prompted some scratching of heads. NatWest, Lloyd's and Midland all say their rates are under review, and Barclaycard has cut its APR (annual percentage rate) by 0.3 percentage points to 22.5 per cent.

Given that base rates have been on a downward trend for three months and that mortgage rates have dropped to 7.25 per cent, why do other forms of borrowing remain so high? It costs a large issuer

about £250,000 each time they change the rate so they tend to make one big cut when they see whether the trend is up or down," says Liz Phillips of the industry's Credit Card Research Group, in an attempt to justify high rates of interest.

It would seem that competition rather than base rate changes may stir the main issuers. Abbey National,

building societies such as the Newcastle, and insurance companies like Churchill are entering the market. The latest recruit, RBS Advanta, believes it has worried the main issuers. To date, providers have

focused on things like payment protection or promotions and they have shied away from price. That is now changing," says Mark Austin, of RBS Advanta. "Consumers used to believe that all credit cards were the same, but now they see that some are priced competitively."

RBS Advanta, a joint venture between the Royal Bank of Scotland and Advanta, the American credit card company, says it has been pleasantly surprised by the number of customers transferring to their card. So does Save & Prosper, which offers one card with an APR of 14.6 per cent, a £12 annual fee and a second card with a base rate-linked return and no interest-free period.

RBS Advanta offers an interest-free period of 56 days and no fee. The rate will be 8.63 per cent above the annual base rate and 25p for every £100 spent.

The interest rate is not particularly attractive. It starts at 14.9 per cent for new accounts, but jumps to 18.9 per cent after six months.

The association said: "This is one of several options we are looking into."



TV ad star Rowan Atkinson extols the virtues of Barclaycard — but interest rates remain high

## Watchdog may join in

THE Consumers' Association is hoping to launch a credit card, to the surprise of other providers (Sarah Jones writes).

"It must be revenue driving them to do it," says a spokesman for one credit card company. "Surely the Consumers' Association should not be endorsing one particular product? It's meant to be independent and neutral."

The card would be an affinity card run by the Bene-

ficial Bank whose off-the-shelf affinity card, used by several charities and organisations, pays the affinity partner £5 for each new account and 25p for every £100 spent.

The interest rate is not particularly attractive. It starts at 14.9 per cent for new accounts, but jumps to 18.9 per cent after six months.

The association said: "This is one of several options we are looking into."

to 20.9 per cent when you factor in the £12 annual fee.

Another American company, the People's Bank, is set to launch a credit card which, it says, will have one of the lowest rates available.

But if you do decide to switch, check the small print. Lloyds Bank, for example, is offering a rate of 16.2 per cent for six months — as long as your debts are at least £2,000.

## Second-hand is not second rate

Thousands of people who own with-profits life policies are surrendering them early instead of selling them on for a better price (Marianne Curphy writes).

Beale Doble, which trades second-hand endowment policies, says many people are unaware that if they wish to stop paying into a policy, they do not need to accept the surrender value offered by the life company.

There is an increasing demand for second-hand policies because of rumours that mutual companies will seek stock market listings. Should they do so, they are very likely to pay a one-off bonus or offer new shares to their existing policyholders.

There is also the prospect that mutuals might be taken over by larger companies, and policyholders again might benefit in the form of a payout.

According to David Beale, Beale Doble's joint managing director, the market for second-hand policies is also being driven by speculation that some life funds will redistribute surplus assets between policyholders and shareholders.

This has happened in the case of Legal & General, which announced this week that with-profits policyholders would benefit from a £163 million

share of surplus funds, while £18 million of the so-called "orphan assets" would go to shareholders.

Mr Beale said: "When L&G announced its plans we saw a huge demand for second-hand policies and their price went up as a result. Now that the Prudential is also hoping to redistribute some of its surplus assets, we are starting to experience requests for old Pru policies, although few people seem to sell them on."

He says Standard Life and Scottish Widows, the mutual life insurers, also have surplus assets from profits built up over many years, and may choose to redistribute them. However, neither company has announced this yet.

Demand for Britannia and Refuge Assurance policies rose when these two companies applied to share out their surplus funds. However, this does not apply to people who own ordinary insurance policies with L&G or its peers. Nor is there any trade in unit-linked policies, since their value is determined only by the value of their units, and policyholders are not in line for a share of any surplus profits.

Beale Doble: 01621 851133.

Prudential payback, page 35

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Money Marketing, 23rd November 1995.

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Marianne  
Curphey on  
the giveaway  
options for the  
super-rich Pru

The Prudential is the latest in a line of life companies which have built up millions, in some cases billions, of pounds of surplus assets over the years and are now trying to redistribute them. But who will be the greatest beneficiary — shareholders or policyholders?

**Q** Where have the surplus funds come from?

**A** These funds, sometimes known as "orphan" assets, are amounts in a with-profits life fund beyond what is needed to meet the reasonable expectations of policyholders. They have accrued because past profits from investment have exceeded the actual payouts given to policyholders, and the maximum management fee has not always been charged to the life fund. Profit is also made when a holder surrenders his policy early.

Among listed life companies, the "orphan" assets arise because shareholders originally put up equity capital to support the development of the long-term insurance fund. Establishing who owns these reserves is a legally complex and time-consuming process. The Pru's argument is that shareholders have not received their full entitlement to the surpluses over time. It says that in the 1920s and 1930s shareholders put money into the fund, and from 1950 to 1980, when the fund was growing, they did not take out their full entitlement.

**Q** How could the redistribution benefit me?

**A** In the case of the Prudential, it is too early to say. The company, which has asked the Department of Trade and Industry for a ruling, says the life fund is worth £3 billion, of which £31 million belongs to policyholders. The remaining £8 billion in theory, a "free asset", though the Pru will not say how much might be "orphan" assets. The City estimates the total funds available for distribution to be between 0 million and £5 billion, would like to see it all go to shareholders. However, agreement by the DTI is almost certainly required for the company to make a payment to policyholders. The process could take 18 months. Policyholders might give a one-off windfall. Shareholders could profit from higher dividends.



## Payback policy at the Prudential

**Q** Is the Pru the first to do this?

**A** No. This week 1.4 million Legal & General with-profits policyholders, who were initially omitted from plans to redistribute surplus funds, learnt how much they will receive from a similar redistribution. They will be given an extra 30 per cent on their annual reversionary bonus. Anyone with a 25-year, £30-a-month maturing policy could expect to receive an extra £900 a year.

The whole life industry is estimated to have a surplus of between £35 billion and £40 billion, of which around £8.5 billion has been amassed by quoted companies with shareholder interests.

The issue was highlighted in 1992, when London & Manchester won approval from the DTI, which regulates insurance companies, for dipping into its orphan assets. It was followed by United

Friendly, which agreed that £275 million of a £2 billion life fund was attributable to shareholders. Then Britannia, with surplus funds of around £1.2 billion, and Refuge, with £630 million, began discussions with the DTI.

**Q** Are other companies interested in doing the same?

**A** One of the larger quoted life companies, Lloyds Abbey Life, says it is unlikely to take the same path as the Pru. Laurence Powers-Freeing, LAL group finance director, said few of its policies were with-profits and so, although the company did have some assets, they were not available for redistribution in the same way as the Pru.

**Q** What else might the Pru use the money for?

**A** The Pru has hinted it would like to use some of the money to buy a mutual life insurer or a building society. There would then be a smaller

pot to boost shareholders' funds and add to dividends. Nevertheless, shareholders could benefit from the extra business generated by a well-chosen acquisition, and from any investment gain on the fund which arises before it is spent.

**Q** So everyone is a winner?

**A** On this occasion, it looks as though the Pru would like to tip the ratio in favour of shareholders. The company's shares have already risen in anticipation of a bumper dividend. Even if there is a payout for policyholders, it will not be given to anyone with a unit-linked policy, nor people who have a motor or household insurance policy with the Pru. Speculators might buy the shares, but they would be unwise to buy a with-profits policy in the hope of landing a big bonus. Payouts are unlikely to be large enough to make that worthwhile.

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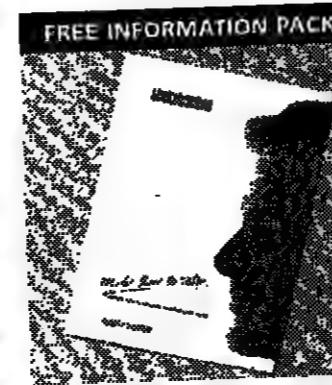
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Private investors have to be far more sanguine than professional moneymakers. Take this week's bout of jitters on Wall Street and in London. As the markets opened on Monday following a 171-point fall in the Dow Jones Index the previous Friday many City analysts predicted a stock market crash comparable to that of October 1987. But why? And how should unit and investment trust investors react to such doomsday scenarios?

That such an event did not occur is, in part, due to procedures put in place after the 1987 crash. These stipulate that when the US market falls by a certain number of points in any one day, the multi-billion dollar automatic computer trading programs must be switched to manual instructions to buy and sell.

Safeguards to avert a market freefall have certainly helped to pull up short the professional herd mentality. But private investors must anyway take a much longer-term view of their portfolios. They have to see through a poor set of statistics. In the US, this was stronger than expected employment, data dashing hopes of an early interest rate cut. A not dissimilar situation occurred in the UK on Wednesday when an unexpected 6,800 rise in the unemployment ended two-and-a-half years of falling joblessness. On this occasion, the UK market edged up on the view that rising unemployment could mean a further interest

rate cut to stimulate a sluggish economy.

Private investors must consider many more factors. Do you want income or capital growth? Do you want an internationally diversified portfolio through one investment or unit trust or do you want to allocate your money to different markets, sectors or regions that you have chosen yourself? Generally, the performance of individual managers and their houses should be a more decisive factor than whether you opt for an investment trust or a unit trust.

However, investment trusts do enjoy certain advantages. If, for example, you want to invest in a single country, such as with Five Arrows Chile, managed by Rothschild, or a sector such as mining or venture capital, an investment trust may be a better choice.

Paul Myerson, chairman of Gartmore, the fund management group about to be bought by NatWest for £425 million, runs both unit and investment trusts.

He says: "As a private investor, you must generally take a minimum two-year view on your investment. Eco-

nomic data such as that which triggered the most recent bout of stock market nervousness will, in a month's time, be overtaken by other statistics possibly putting a very different light on matters."

Investors looking to make a profit on predatory activity in the investment trust sector this year could be disappointed. Many observers now believe that the tantalising prospect of a hostile bidder realising assets at full market value from an underperforming investment trust portfolio are overdone. Nevertheless,

shareholder pressure is likely to grow on laggards in the investment trust sector, leading to re-organisations and possibly a change of manager. Such actions are generally to the benefit of shareholders and other similar trusts.

One investment trust analyst taking a sanguine view of recent stock market jitters is Peter Walls, of Credit Lyonnais Laing (CLL). He sees no reason to change the house view on investment trusts after the recent market events.

In the investment scales, CLL says, the political uncertainty of a decreasing Government majority in the Commons and a November US presidential election, coupled with the prospect of inflation creeping back into economies, is outweighed by more positive factors involving low interest rates, corporate activity, sterling, private investor interest, Japan and the Far East story.

CLL advises investment trust investors to move to "an overweight position in the expectation of significant out-performance relative to the FTSE All Share Index". That exposure may be too rich for some and a judicious mix of investment and unit trusts may be more suitable.

CLL yesterday updated its 1996 list of trusts to watch and these include Martin Currie's Scottish Eastern and Baillie Gifford's Scottish Mortgage, in the international generalists category. On the income side, with a 5.2 per cent yield, is Ivory & Sime's Investors Capital Trust Units.



Investment trusts may beat unit trusts as the way to ride into a single country such as Chile

## When a hostile bidder gallops in

BIG time investors such as the Bank of England and Gartmore, both of whom have a stake in the £235 million Cayman Islands-based GT Chile fund, which is the target of a hostile bid, can take care of themselves. But how well are private investors looked after?

This week the predatory Regent Kingpin Acquisitions reached an agreement with GT Chile's board to offer shareholders other options to the original offer of Regent paper which could then be converted into cash roughly equivalent to the net asset value (NAV) of the underlying portfolio. Now shareholders will have the additional choices of a new fund run by Regent Kingpin or another fund run by LGT Asset Management, an arm of GT's Liechtenstein-based owners.

For the offer to succeed, 75 per cent of the shareholders must approve, as must the Cayman Islands court and the



more probably, investment trusts that covers the same market, region or sector.

In almost any bid situation in the UK, whether it is for an investment trust or a single company, the shareholder register is likely to be dominated by the City institutions and pension funds. But, the rights of minority shareholders are protected in the UK.

In the case of investment trusts there is an additional, although unwritten, protective barrier, in that management houses are locked in a fierce battle to increase their pool of retail funds. Any prospective bidder therefore is likely to offer private investors at least a range of options that will enable them to ring-fence any potential capital gains tax liability and to roll-over their money into another trust.

*Additional research by Heather Dickson.*

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3009/96

Title	Initials	Surname
Address		
Postcode	Tel No.	

## THE VALUE BOND PEP GUINNESS FLIGHT

\*Estimated redemption/run-up yields, as at 15.2.96, gross of tax and net of annual management charge. An 'AA' rating is defined as meaning 'a fund which provides very strong protection against losses from credit default'. The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. Also, deduction of charges and expenses means you may not get back the amount you invested. Tax benefits detailed are those currently applicable and will vary from one investor to another and may change in the future. Issued by Guinness Flight Fund Managers Limited, regulated by IMRO.



Inflation uncertainty and volatility in US markets is pushing up fixed rates

## Fixed-rate loans — the only way is up

**M**any building societies and banks withdrew their fixed-rate mortgages last week in the wake of turbulence in the US stock market. The rates on fixed-rate mortgages are determined by money market interest rate perceptions. Insiders attempt to predict what will happen to interest rates over specific time periods.

Uncertainty in the US over inflation and volatility in both the stock market and the bond market is pushing up fixed rates. The looming general election in this country is also having an effect on the direction of rates.

Societies that are withdrawing fixed and discounted rates included Northern Rock, National & Provincial, Bristol & West and Alliance & Leicester. Some have replaced them with higher rates, while others, such as Alliance & Leicester,

**Caroline Merrell**  
blames growing  
uncertainty for  
the increases

are waiting to see what happens over the next few days before deciding whether to re-launch their products, and, if so, at what rates.

Lenders tended towards withdrawing their five to ten-year fixed-rate loans, leaving intact one and two-year fixed mortgages.

Christopher Dean, fund manager of the Bradford & Bingley, said: "Things in the States have pushed up five-year fixed rates because of the turbulent market conditions. We do not like having to do this, but we hope to be able to come back with rates similar to the ones which were with-

drawn." The three-year fixed rate was 6.7 per cent, while the five-year loan was fixed at 7.45 per cent. The society is still offering a one-year fixed rate of 1.95 per cent and a two-year fix of 4.99 per cent.

On the other hand, most lenders have now cut their variable rates in response to the 0.25 per cent cut in base rates last week. Variable rates are now at around 7.25 per cent.

Bradford & Bingley is still offering the best variable rate at 5.99 per cent, while Nationwide has a competitive variable rate of 6.99 per cent.

Christopher Dean, fund manager of the Bradford & Bingley, said: "Things in the States have pushed up five-year fixed rates from 7.42 to 7.74 per cent, while ten-year rates have risen from 8.15 to 8.35 per cent. There is a general perception that interest rates will go up in the longer term, although a lot has already been built into the market."

Margaret Schwarz, Abbey National's chief economist, believes that fixed-rate mortgages are now politically priced. She said: "Five-year rates are quite volatile because of the uncertainty of the election. The reaction is probably a tad overdone."

She points out that in spite of the rise in rates it is still possible to take out a five-year fixed loan with a rate of under 8 per cent. She added: "This is still a very good rate which takes away the uncertainty for many borrowers."

Simon Tyler, of Chase de Vere, the mortgage broker, said: "Everyone is shifting the rates around, with the direct operators keeping the rates lower."

Ian Darby, marketing director at John Charcol, said: "Best buys include a fixed rate from Northern Rock at 7.24, a 7.39 five-year fixed rate from Nationwide and a 6.79 per cent five-year rate from the Coventry, although it carries a 3 per cent fee."

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Karen Zagor on the transatlantic theatrics

## Markets not for the faint of heart

**T**he world was shaken out of its collective composure last Friday. By Monday evening, a recovery was being mooted. But Tuesday saw further turmoil before Wednesday's promise of renewed calm. By Friday, stability appeared to be a distant dream.

The dramatic events of this week have nothing to do with the Middle East or the former Yugoslavia, and everything to do with the international nature of stock markets. So what exactly happened this week, and what does it mean for private investors?

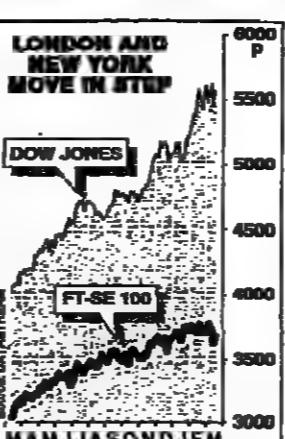
The theatrics started last Friday in the US, with the release of the strongest monthly employment numbers in 13 years. A strong rise in employment may sound like good news, but for the markets, robust employment data can spell disaster.

Markets are extremely sensitive to interest rates and tend to rise when rates fall. When people are employed, they have more money to spend and there is a danger that strong spending will trigger inflation. Raising base rates is one method of trying to curb inflation. So the US employment numbers depressed the market by quashing all hopes of an imminent cut in base

rate.

As a result of the employment figures, the Dow Jones industrial average — the US market index of blue chip companies — plummeted 17.24 points to 5,470.45.

Ironically, Friday's news of



that the markets had over-reacted to the employment numbers. In the US, the Dow gained 110.5 points on the day, its third biggest one-day gain ever, recovering about two thirds of Friday's losses.

But Tuesday saw renewed nervousness. The FTSE 100 moved in a 68-point range during the day before ending the session 35 points lower at 3,639.5, while Wall Street started the day with a 90-point drop before recovering to add almost three points on the day.

By Wednesday, London shares, which had lost more than 130 points over the previous five days, finally started to staunch their losses. The FTSE 100 edged 0.8 higher to 3,640.3, while the Dow slipped 15.17 to 5,568.72.

The gains continued into Thursday, with the FTSE 100 adding 41.5 points to close at 3,681.8 and the Dow closing at 5,586.06, up 17.34 points.

But Friday saw a return of market jitters, with the FTSE 100 index following Wall Street lower through the day.

For private investors, the events of this week are a timely reminder that markets are volatile and equity investments carry a risk. In spite of recent gyrations, both UK and US equity markets are at near-record levels.

Whether they are able to maintain this comparative strength remains to be seen, but if there is any lesson to be learnt from this week, it is that equity investments are not for the short term or for the faint of heart.

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DESCRIPTION	% GROWTH OVER 1995 £ 3.35 - 43.56	POSITION
BING GENERAL	16.57%	( 69)
NORTHWEST UK GENERAL	19.52%	( 45)
MARSH & SPENCER UK SELF-FIT ACC.	21.86%	( 31)
MORGAN GRANDEUK IND TRUST INC.	19.10%	( 47)
PERPETUAL INCOME	21.57%	( 25)
SCHRODER UK EQUITY INC.	23.83%	( 12)
ASPIRE NATIONAL UK GROWTH	21.19%	( 29)
VIRGIN PFS UK INDEX TRACKING	28.13%	( 11)
ALLIED DOMESTIC GROWTH & INCOME	22.13%	( 19)
FIDELITY GROWTH & INCOME	21.96%	( 26)
GARTMORE UK INDEX	26.67%	( 4)

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SOURCE: Hindsight, Income & Growth sector (PEP only), 4 March 1996.

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# THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## Braile edition of Barclaycard 'care'

**BARCLAYCARD** has produced a special Braile edition of its "Care" pack for visually impaired customers. The pack offers information on Barclaycard International Rescue, Barclaycard Purchase Cover and Barclaycard Assist, a 24-hour helpline for domestic, legal or roadside emergencies. The company currently provides the blind and partially sighted with monthly statements in Braile or large print. For more information on Barclaycard's services for the blind or for a copy of the pack, call 01233 524350.

A review of all Enterprise Zone Trusts has been published by Allenbridge Group plc, the research house, in its *Tax Shelter Report*. The report compares the pre-lets, speculative industrial and speculative office developments on offer, citing Close Bros' Nottingham scheme as its top rated E.Z.T. Allenbridge's rating system considers the security of the rental stream, the yield and its location — including the opportunities for investment growth, and the disposal possibilities of the investment. A copy of its report is available to professional advisers only by private annual subscription.

LIZANNE ROSE

tion of £350 (paid by cheque). Write to Allenbridge Group plc, 16 Bolton Street, London W1Y 5LY, or call 0171 409 1111.

**BEST** Investment also discusses Enterprise Zone Trusts in its latest newsletter, the *Tax Shelter Bulletin*, recommending Holmewood Enterprise Zone for its location and price. The bulletin includes information and advice on the new EIS and Venture Capital Trust launches. Call 0171 321 0100 for details of subscriptions.

The majority of compensation claims paid out for poor conveyancing work result from the failure of solicitors to carry out routine checks, according to research undertaken by the Council of Mortgage Lenders. Its findings have been published in *Conveyancing Negligence*. The report states that the most common causes of claims paid out from the Solicitors Indemnity Fund are failure to identify back-to-back sales and failure to obtain good title. *Conveyancing Negligence* is available from BSA/CML Bookshop, 3 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF; price £20.

LIZANNE ROSE

<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>		
<b>ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at March 14, 1996</b>		
Investment (£) Company Standard Rate (%)		
<b>1 Year</b>		
5,000 AIG Life 4.75		
10,000 AIG Life 4.85		
20,000 AIG Life 4.95		
50,000 AIG Life 5.10		
<b>2 Years</b>		
5,000 Financial Assur 5.25		
20,000 Financial Assur 5.35		
50,000 Financial Assur 5.50		
<b>3 Years</b>		
1,000 Premium Life 4.50		
5,000 Financial Assur 5.50		
20,000 Financial Assur 5.60		
50,000 Financial Assur 5.75		
<b>4 Years</b>		
1,000 Premium Life 4.70		
5,000 Financial Assur 5.75		
20,000 Financial Assur 5.85		
50,000 Financial Assur 6.00		
<b>5 Years</b>		
1,000 Premium Life 5.10		
5,000 Financial Assur 6.20		
20,000 Abbey Life 6.40		
50,000 Abbey Life 6.60		

Source: Chamberlain de Broi 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

### SAVERS' BEST BUYS

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Portman BS 01202 292444	Inst Access Cheltenham Gold	Instant £100 4.80 Yly
Buckinghamshire BS 01494 879064	Postal £1,000 5.30 Yly	
Direct Line 0181 667 1121	Inst Savings Instant	£10,000 5.80 Yly
Direct Line 0181 667 1121		£25,000 6.00 Yly

#### NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS

Manchester BS 0161 834 9465	45 Day	45 day £25,000 5.55 Yly
Bradford & Bingley 0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day p £15,000 6.80 Yly
Bradford & Bingley 0345 248248	Direct 90	90 day p £30,000 7.00 Yly
Chester BS 0800 272505	120 Account	120 day £5,000 6.50 Yly

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Cheltenham & Gloucester 0128 717505	5 year	£3,000 7.25 Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£255 7.25 Yly
Dunfermline BS 01383 627727	5 year	£3,000 7.20 Yly

#### CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92%G 11.50% Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00% 14.00% E12 Nil C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14% 14.50% Nil C

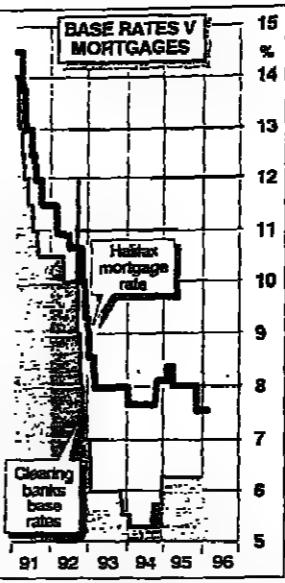
#### PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

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Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£118.54 £103.14
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94 £103.33

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01982 500 677)



		Gross	At tax rates	Min/maximum investment £	Notes	Contact
		25%	40%			
Ordinary A/c*	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000	01416494555	
Investment A/c*	6.50	4.88	3.90	20-50,000-25,000**	01416494555	3rd
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.75	100-10,000	01913864900	
Plan Bond*	6.75			25-1,000	01416362535	
45th Issue Certf	5.35					
Children's Bond*	5.75					
Glen Ed Rate	3.51					
Capital Bonds*	6.85	4.98	3.99	100-25,000	01416362503	6th
9th Index Linkred	2.50			100-10,000	01913864900	
Pensions Bond S3 £7.00	5.25	4.20	3.00	500-50,000-6,000	01253766151	

\* £70 (€140) of int accs for up to £100. Additons b/w £100,000-1,000,000. \*\*£100,000-200,000-250,000. \*\*£100,000-200,000-250,000 if addtional proceeds. Tax free. Rates gross and vols guaranteed when held for 5 years. 10.25% int bonus for £20,000. 10.5% int bonus for £20,000 if in addition to S1 and S2 savings. Tax free. \*Tied rates apply.

#### NATIONAL SAVINGS

		Gross	At tax rates	Min/maximum investment £	Notes	Contact
		25%	40%			
Ordinary A/c*	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000	01416494555	
Investment A/c*	6.50	4.88	3.90	20-50,000-25,000**	01416494555	3rd
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.75	100-10,000	01913864900	
Plan Bond*	6.75			25-1,000	01416362535	
45th Issue Certf	5.35					
Children's Bond*	5.75					
Glen Ed Rate	3.51					
Capital Bonds*	6.85	4.98	3.99	100-25,000	01416362503	6th
9th Index Linkred	2.50			100-10,000	01913864900	
Pensions Bond S3 £7.00	5.25	4.20	3.00	500-50,000-6,000	01253766151	

\* £70 (€140) of int accs for up to £100. Additons b/w £100,000-1,000,000. \*\*£100,000-200,000-250,000. \*\*£100,000-200,000-250,000 if addtional proceeds. Tax free. Rates gross and vols guaranteed when held for 5 years. 10.25% int bonus for £20,000. 10.5% int bonus for £20,000 if in addition to S1 and S2 savings. Tax free. \*Tied rates apply.

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		All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance
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Canada Life		£1



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71895 229783	206 50	206 50	+ 1.10	1.88											
71895 229783	131 20	131 20	+ 1.10	1.88											
71895 229783	75 40	77 73	- 0.93	5.91											
71895 229783	171 20	180 10	- 1.80	1.80											
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7171 553 231	827 10	857 20	- 13.50	2.70											
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7171 553 231	77 71	77 73	- 0.93	5.91											
7171 553 231	171 20	180 10	- 1.80	1.80											
FOREIGN PRIVATE FUND MGRS LTD															
7171 553 231	201 60	219 70	- 3.50	0.82											
7171 553 231	206 50	206 50	+ 1.10	1.88											
7171 553 231	131 20	131 20	+ 1.10	1.88											
7171 553 231	75 40	77 73	- 0.93	5.91											
7171 553 231	171 20	180 10	- 1.80	1.80											
FOREIGN PRIVATE FUND MGRS LTD															
7171 553 231	827 10	857 20	- 13.50	2.70											

	1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Yld	%	P/E
		Or	Or		Or	%	PE	
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>								
555	475	Mill Distress	497.5	- 17	5.1	17.4		
573	390	Bell's (APL)	525	- 17	5.3	25.2		
146	198	Bell's (B)	525	- 17	5.3	25.2		
235	204	Bentley (B)	525	- 17	4.4	18.2		
245	151	Heublein (B)	525	- 17	3.8	14.5		
710	600	Midland Men's	525	- 17	1.9	17.2		
765	522	Midland Clark	525	- 17	1.9	17.2		
257	137	Saint-Gobain	525	- 17	1.5	32.2		
<b>BANKS</b>								
367	2127	ABN-Amro	2127.5	- 17	4.1	11.7		
653	1125	Barclays	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.3		
250	160	Barclays (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.3		
146	105	Barclays (C)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.3		
507	319	Barclays (D)	2127.5	- 17	3.2	10.3		
256	181	Bank Scotland	2127.5	- 17	3.1	10.8		
488	268	Bank of Scotland	2127.5	- 17	4.2	10.8		
768	78	Bank of Scotland	2127.5	- 17	1.9	10.8		
257	137	Barclays (E)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.3		
257	219	Clairemont	2127.5	- 17	2.1	15.5		
125	1129	Commercial	2127.5	- 17	2.1	15.5		
275	275	Deutsche B	2127.5	- 17	4.7	10.2		
121	1139	First Direct	2127.5	- 17	2.1	13.0		
173	159	General Nat	2127.5	- 17	2.1	13.0		
109	969	HSA (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	HSA (C)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	HSA (D)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	HSA (E)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	King Shaven	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	Leeds (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	Leeds (C)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	Leeds (D)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	Leeds (E)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	1125	Westgate	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	200	Wimpey	2127.5	- 17	2.1	17.4		
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>								
156	145	Apoles (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
123	145	Asda (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
192	157	Brasserie (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
197	170	City Centre Rest	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
157	127	Fooday P. A.	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
355	355	Fultons (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Green King (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Greene King (C)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Greene King (D)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Greene King (E)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (B)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (C)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (D)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (E)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (F)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (G)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (H)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (I)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (J)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (K)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (L)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (M)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (N)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (O)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (P)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (Q)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (R)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (S)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (T)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (U)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (V)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (W)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (X)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (Y)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (Z)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (AA)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (BB)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (CC)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (DD)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (EE)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (FF)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (GG)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (HH)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (II)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (JJ)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (KK)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (LL)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (MM)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (NN)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (OO)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (PP)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (QQ)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (RR)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (SS)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (TT)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (UU)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (VV)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (WW)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (XX)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (YY)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (ZZ)	2127.5	- 17	2.1	10.8		
121	145	Handy Home (AA)	2127.5					

# Welham puts Whitaker in good heart

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH HOLLAND

**JOHN WHITAKER**, of Great Britain, the runner-up with Grannusch on the opening day of the Volvo World Cup show jumping meeting here, continued his successful week when he and Welham, the horse he rides in the World Cup qualifier tomorrow, won the Rabobank Prize yesterday by a comfortable 1.65m.

Emile Hendrix, a member of Holland's gold medal-winning team at the 1991 European championships, finished joint-second on his Dutch-bred mare, Finesse, with Peter Eriksson, the leading Swedish rider, on his stallion, Robin.

Despite Welham's 16 years, Whitaker is confident that the part Irish-bred gelding, who won the opening event in Dortmund last week, is still improving. Owned by Keeley Durham, Welham was originally lent to Whitaker for the 1994 Olympia Show in order to give the horse some international experience. He had previously jumped mainly on Solitaire.

Whitaker formed an instant partnership with him — winning on the second day of the show — and was invited to keep the ride providing Welham remained stabled at Durham's Nottinghamshire yard.

They went on to gain numerous successes last year, including a team silver and individual fifth place at the European championships. Welham, who had no difficulty in coping with the big championship fences, is now Whitaker's main hope for the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The British had a disappointing showing in the

Hydradyna Prize in which Henk van der Pol, of Holland, finished first and second. None of the Britons in the 68-strong class reached the jump-off. Michael Whitaker, who was giving Midnight Madness his first outing of the season, hit the first two jumps and then had to retire after an eight fault standard was brought in. He will ride him again today in an attempt to get him settled before the World Cup qualifier tomorrow.

Nick Skelton, who was also "turning up" his 1995 World Cup-winner, Dollar Girl, after a fortnight's rest, also had eight faults, but their successors in Bordeaux and Moersle last month have ensured that the pair start the qualifier as one of the favourites. John Whitaker, on Cor d'Alme, also had to retire after incurring eight faults. Geoff Billington was left to uphold British honour with four faults on Solitaire.

Skelton and the two Whitakers have an added incentive for success tomorrow. Despite their positions as Britain's three leading riders, they have yet to attract a sponsor to replace Everest, whose contract with the three ended in December. Michael and John Whitaker are ranked third and seventh in the world. Skelton is sixth.

**RESULTS:** Hydrona Prize: 1. Farnous Henk van der Pol; 2. Henk van der Pol; 3. Gohm IJH van der Pol; 4. Henk van der Pol; 5. Michael Whitaker; 6. Henk van der Pol; 7. Emile Hendrix; 8. Henk van der Pol; 9. Henk van der Pol; 10. Henk van der Pol; 11. Henk van der Pol; 12. Henk van der Pol; 13. Henk van der Pol; 14. Henk van der Pol; 15. Henk van der Pol; 16. Henk van der Pol; 17. Henk van der Pol; 18. Henk van der Pol; 19. Henk van der Pol; 20. Henk van der Pol; 21. Henk van der Pol; 22. Henk van der Pol; 23. Henk van der Pol; 24. Henk van der Pol; 25. Henk van der Pol; 26. Henk van der Pol; 27. Henk van der Pol; 28. Henk van der Pol; 29. Henk van der Pol; 30. Henk van der Pol; 31. Henk van der Pol; 32. Henk van der Pol; 33. Henk van der Pol; 34. Henk van der Pol; 35. Henk van der Pol; 36. Henk van der Pol; 37. Henk van der Pol; 38. Henk van der Pol; 39. Henk van der Pol; 40. Henk van der Pol; 41. Henk van der Pol; 42. Henk van der Pol; 43. Henk van der Pol; 44. Henk van der Pol; 45. 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# Ince now striking right notes in Italian harmony

**L**ife took its time to settle tranquillity upon Paul Emerson Carlyle Ince, but the player whose demeanour could be the epitome of belligerent discontent when he was with Manchester United, has become one of football's idle rich as he sits with his feet up in Italy, where the players in Serie A are taking this weekend off in a show of strength against their paymasters.

Ince, the one leading Englishman abroad, is gaining respect by the week in Milan. He will, on Tuesday, be recalled to Terry Venables' England squad for the match against Bulgaria at Wembley on March 27, and, given the news that shook every family during the week, he has the contentment of seeing his small son, Thomas, safe in their Lake Como home.

Last Sunday, Ince took star billing, playing with the essence of discipline and enforcement that Venables wants from him, when he anchored Internazionale, to victory over AC Milan in the San Siro derby match. Reports were unanimous: Ince had deprived George Weah and Roberto Baggio, the reigning and recent world players of the year, of opportunity.

Ince had won more than his share of the ball in his physical duel with Marcel Desailly, the Frenchman, and when he says that he has learnt greater technique in 20 matches in Italy, one suspects that he has merely learnt to apply it to concentrate on the ball rather than the man, to curb those wild excesses that so-called combative players get away with in England.

In any system that Venables decides upon, a formation with Ince "holding" and Paul Gascoigne breaking forwards on creative runs is as close as England will get to a competitive fulcrum for Euro '96. The very fact that Barry Venison and David Batty had been tried at all in the absence of Ince over the past year is indicative of how few quality midfield holding players England possess.

Yet there are some around Ince who ask why he should



**ROB HUGHES**

Weekend View

bother craving a return to his native country at all. He earns more in an afternoon than most salaried workers in a year, more than any other British player. The stand-off between Ince and Venables had allegedly begun when Ince, after his trial and acquittal after becoming embroiled in the Cantona affair at Selhurst Park, reported too "emotionally drained" to play his part in the Umbro Cup last summer.

In fact, their disagreement had its genesis in Dublin, on that ill-fated night in February last year when England's match against Ireland had to be abandoned because of rioting. In the 27 minutes that were played, Ince had shown his irresponsibility, refusing to

**P**aolo Di Canto, 27, the AC Milan mid-field player, yesterday became the latest international to be linked with a move to Celtic. Celtic promised they would pursue "other options" after shelving their attempts to sign Jorge Cadete, the Portugal international.

play instinctively and hold back, and running with a cavalier's mentality instead.

When Venables persisted in omitting Ince, the ill-informed assumed that it was vindictiveness. They read too much into Venables' words when he said last year: "I will not accept anything less than the best. Wherever they are, they must get to the training camps and give 100 per cent."

However, Ince, well on the way now to millionaire status, wants more than money in his life. His competitiveness was shaped at the age of eight, when he was abandoned in east London by his parents. By adolescence, he was running with the gangs, and he has said that he would have finished

up in a prison cell but for John Lyall, the manager of West Ham United, who became his mentor and surrogate father. Lyall could see in Ince what the Italians are extracting today.

He was always rebelling against something or other, always "getting in there" and competing, and in the nick of time he was persuaded to channel aggression into striving for something special. Maybe, like Vesuvius, it can never be said that there will be no more eruptions, but the player who has come through so much rejection, including his part in the Umbro Cup last summer,

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"It's always good to work with a new set of lads and they've got plenty of ability. Can we go up? Why not? Most teams in the first division seem to be of a similar standard and if you've got any sort of go in you, you have to be in the premier league. It's the only place to be."

Bassett has few pretensions. What you see, is what you get; honest opinions, delivered at pace. Not unlike his bone-shuddering playing career with Walton and Hersham, who won the FA Amateur Cup in 1973, and Wimbledon, in their Southern League championship-winning heyday. If you were tackled by Bassett, you stayed tackled.

He has displayed similar vigorous qualities in managing Wimbledon, Palace, Wimbleton again, Watford, and Sheffield United, respectively, too, with six promotion seasons and an FA Cup semi-final in the locker.

He had seen the signs when Brian Deane was sold to Leeds United, for £2.7 million, two years earlier. "I should

have legged it then," he said. On the debit side, he stayed at Palace only three days first time around — "I was young, it seemed a good idea at the time" — and found little harmony in his eight months, with Elton John, at Watford.

In December last year, after

eight seasons at Sheffield United, Bassett tired of the constant boardroom bickering. Never one for politics, he left by mutual consent. "I'd had enough," he said. "The club had stagnated. It got to the point where I wouldn't sell any players because I knew I wouldn't have any of the

money to reinvest."

He had seen the signs when

Brian Deane was sold to

Leeds United, for £2.7 million,

two years earlier. "I should

have legged it then," he said. "I voted against Brian going but was overruled. You battle on, always thinking you can turn the corner, but, in the end, I knew I had to go."

Between leaving Bramall Lane and being summoned to the Palace, Bassett spent long overdues with his family — Chris, his wife, and daughters, Carly, 17, and Kimberley, 14. Rest and recuperation plus his usual media work, kept him occupied. He also applied, and was twice interviewed, for the then vacant job as manager of Ireland.

"I really fancied that," he said. "I felt I had the experience, the credentials, and I was told there would be a decision in 48 hours. When I

didn't hear anything for 48

hours, I thought it was a bit

ominous." Not to worry. Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, had already rung and Bassett accepted the consolation prize.

The combination of Ray Lewington and Peter Nicholls as joint first-team coaches had not gelled and Noades, a notoriously demanding employer, sought salvation. Call for Bassett, his old friend. Call for Mr Motivator.

"In this business, you have to keep proving yourself," Bassett said. "You're a hero one minute, then nobody wants you. I'd gone stale at Sheffield, and had to get out, but I feel infinitely better for it." So do Palace.

ADAM BUTLER



Bassett, leaning on the club emblem, has taken his young side up 13 places

## Mr Motivator turns Palace around

Russell Kempson on what drives the manager who arrived at the London club like a wind of change

## North West rivals united in bid for Wembley

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL  
BY WALTER GAMMIE

FIXLTON and Clitheroe travel for the first leg of the FA Carlsberg Vase semi-finals today as they try to secure an all North West Counties League Wembley final to emulate the 1987 showpiece in which St Helens beat Warrington 3-2.

Fixlton will tread warily at the Hawthorns, home of Brigg Town, of the Northern Counties East League, who have claimed seven successive Vase victims on their own patch, including Fixlton's Manchester rivals, Trafford, in the fifth round. However, Brigg lost to Clitheroe in the second qualifying round of the FA Cup earlier in the season.

Clitheroe must take on Mangotsfield United, from Bristol, of the Great Mills League, who are managed by Terry Rowles, who guided Taunton Town to the 1994 final, where they lost to Diss Town.

Rowles can call upon three of that Taunton side in Dave Ewens, the captain, Wayne Morris and Andy Perrett, a prolific goalscorer who also played for him when he managed Clevedon Town during their rise to the Beamer Homes League.

Mangotsfield have themselves lodged an application to the Beamer Homes League. "The ground just needs some cosmetic work," Roger Gray, the secretary, said. "We've got a 300-seat stand and covered accommodation down one side after working steadily on the ground for the past five or six years."

Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare and Yate in the Beamer League are all within ten or 12 miles of us. In order to compete, we've got to look to get to that standard, otherwise the club will stagnate."

Today all will be focused on the Vase. "The players are very confident," Gray said. "There's not been any talk of losing." Rowles' devotion to duty included having Wivenhoe, their fifth-round opponents, watched five times. Clitheroe have come under similar scrutiny. The club hopes to attract a crowd of 2,000, despite the counter-attraction of the Bristol derby.

## THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

**COVENTRY v BOLTON**

Can Bolton escape from the jaws of hell? Successive away victories in Middlebrough and at home at Elland Road, an absolute must if the survival operation is to continue. Coventry need the points, too, otherwise Big Ron's Inverian wheeling and dealing will come to naught. Six draws in nine Premier League games have been a cause of concern, but he has been watching on Match of the Day's highlights and lowlights.

LAST SEASON: No future.

10-YEAR RECORD: No future.

**COVENTRY (from):** S Ogrizovic, B Horne, D Bush, L Dash, R Shaw, D Brown, J Gormley, P Vassaris, E Jess, J Seale, D Dublin, P Davies, A Pickering, N Lampert, J Flan, G Lee, K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, S Curcio, A Stu, C Ferri, G Bergeson, S Sellers, N Blak, S Coleman, M Pastorek, D Lee, F de Freitas, W Burnell, A Davison, J McGinnity.

**LIVERPOOL v CHELSEA**

All the hype surrounding Gulf is more than justified, he deserves every drooling, salivating, drooling upon his coming. Yet all the hype surrounding Chelsea, his team, may have been premature. Scrambling draw with Wimborne in the FA Cup, he had the makings of a champion. Perhaps Bruce Rioch is his agent. Liverpool made their first change in personnel in eight matches, with Bob and Wright injured.

LAST SEASON: Liverpool 3 Chelsea 1.

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-3, 0-2, 2-1, -4-1, 2-0, 1-2, 2-1, 2-1, 2-1.

**LIVERPOOL (from):** D James, J McAllister, R Jones, S Hartness, N Ruddock, J Scales, S McManaman, J Barnes, M Thomas, J Redknapp, R Fowler, S Collymore, I Rush, M Kennedy, A Warner.

**CHELSEA (from):** K Hitchcock, T Phelan, D Petrescu, S Clarke, D Lee, M Duberry, E Johnson, R Gullit, D Wise, J Sparrow, M Hughes, G Pascoe, P Tunnicliffe, N Spackman, D Krause, M Izquierdo.

**MANCHESTER CITY v SOUTHAMPTON**

How Alan Ball loves his imports. Joining him from the Italian side Parma, Mauro Rossetti, the foreign legion is Giuseppe Mezzanelli, the Swiss-born, Italian passport-holder — and probably the son of a chessmaster — from FC Zurich. Dave Mackay, the manager, can no longer afford to be a chess master. Not getting a replay out of their FA Cup quarter-final at Old Trafford on Monday was a travesty.

LAST SEASON: Manchester City 3 Southampton 3.

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 2-4, -1-2, 3-3, 0-1, 1-1, 3-3.

**MAN CITY (from):** E Immler, N Summerbee, K Currie, K Symons, M Fratton, G Filtraco, G Kirkendall, S Lomas, J Brightwell, N Clough, U Rösler, M Brown, G Mazzarri, G Creaney, M Phillips, A Kernaghan.

**SOUTHAMPTON (from):** D Beasant, D Dodd, R Hall, K Johnson, A Neilson, G Cowdrey, M Johnson, J Maguire, S Parker, M Cole, M Walker, P Tindale, D Hughes, G Watson, N Shipperley, B Grobbelaar.

**MIDDLESBROUGH v NOTTINGHAM FOREST**

Middlesbrough have not won at home in 18 months since November 1993. Considering they have taken only one point from a possible 33, and have yet to win in the Premiership this year, it is unlikely that barren runs will come to an end. Nottingham Forest have had a joy and heartbreak recently, in the FA Cup, and play Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday — their seventeenth knockout game of the season. Must be hell being a pro footballer ... but somebody's got to do it.

LAST SEASON: No future.

10-YEAR RECORD: -3-4, -1-2, 1-2, 2-2.

**MIDDLESBROUGH (from):** A Miller, G Walsh, N Cox, C Morris, N Pearson, D Whyley, C Fleming, B Bruce, J Pollock, G Kavanagh, R Mustoe, C Higgins, N Bamby, J Juninho, J Hinchliffe, A Forster, A Moore, N O'Gorman, M Johnson, S Murphy, S McNamee, S O'Brien, G Cheyne, S Sturridge, S Bent-Wilkinson, G Cornhill, D Phillips, B Roy, K Campbell, J Lee, A Silenzio, W Allen, P McGregor, S Howe.

**NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from):** I Walker, A Smith, S Smith, S Armstrong, R Ross, S Bannister, J Curran, S Dicks, D Howells.

**QPR v MANCHESTER UNITED**

United's good fortune is peaking at exactly the right moment. The successive victories over Newcastle and Southampton, in which he scored, have put them above and beyond the call of duty. Jammie dodges, mind you, ten consecutive wins is good going in anybody's language and the least he has achieved a previously torpid this year, and the Kamares are for a while. The Kamares should take comfort in the fact their last two triumphs over United came in months that begin with an M.

LAST SEASON: QPR 2 Manchester 3.

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-1, 0-2, 3-2, 1-2, 1-1, 0-0, 1-3, 2-3, 2-3.

**QPR (from):** J Sommer, D Bardley, S Yates, K Ready, T Challice, S Doherty, I Holloway, N Quashie, A McDonald, T Sinclair, K Galvin, G Goodridge, B Allen, D Dicchio, M Brander, M Hafey, C Plummer.

**MAN UTD (from):** P Schmeichel, D Irwin, S Bruce, G Neville, P Neville, L Sharpe, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, A Cole, D May, P Scholes, D Beckham, A Cottee.

**SHEDFIELD WEDNESDAY v ASTON VILLA**

Team of the season so far? Must be Villa. First in the Premiership, Coca-Cola Cup finalists and FA Cup semi-finalists. However, Brian Little's organisational skills will be sorely tested this afternoon. In the second to go-to-the-wires with Wednesday, Villa Park, Birmingham, Southgate and Staunton are missing and Schmidt is doubtful. Luckily, Wednesday are no great shakes and unlikely to trouble any line-up. Little cares to select. What a manager, what a team.

LAST SEASON: Sheldfield 1 Aston Villa 2.

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 2-1, -1-0, 1-0, 2-0, 0-0, 1-2.

**SHEDFIELD WED (from):** C Woods, K Pressman, B Nicol, L Brice, D Walker, J Watt, G Hyde, J Sheridan, M Degraze, M Cambridge, D Hirst, D Kovacevic, R Blinder, G Whigham, G Newcome.

**ASTON VILLA (from):** R Bowden, P Barnes, G Clark, A Wright, U Ehiogu, P Car, S Milosevic, D Yorke, M Dakkar.

**TOTTENHAM v BLACKBURN**

Any Arsenal fan wishing a plague on Tottenham, as if they would want such a thing, might well be rewarded. Sol Campbell has gone down with the pox, of the chicken variety, and apparently cannot have been infected by his team-mates before he was sent home. If Tottenham's display is listless today, do not be surprised. Chris Sutton, Blackburn's 25 million striker, could be sighted for the first time this year after recovering from terrible wage syndrome — he doesn't earn as much as Alan Shearer — and ankle problems.

LAST SEASON: Tottenham 3 Blackburn 1.

10-YEAR RECORD: -1-2, 0-2, 3-1.

**TOTTENHAM (from):** I Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, C Calderwood, C Rimmer, R Forrester, A Smith, S Armstrong, A Fletcher, R Nethercott, R Ross, S Bannister, J Curran, S Dicks, D Howells.

**BLACKBURN (from):** T Flowers, H Berg, C Hendry, C Coleman, J Kenny, W McKinlay, M Holmes, N Marker, K Gallacher, A Shearer, G Fenton, N Gudmundsson, R Mimms, C Sutton, M Newell, L Bohm.

**MONDAY**

**NEWCASTLE v WEST HAM**

Newcastle could be off the top of the Premiership by tonight, a rare occurrence this season. They have to need positively but it will not be easy against a West Ham side who beat them 2-0 at Loftus Road last Saturday. Newcastle's manager, Steve McClaren, should now run smoothly on the pitch without the influence of Asprilla and Bettini. Everything should now run smoothly on the pitch without the influence of Asprilla and Bettini. Could be that they'll need their game in hand over Manchester United as the self-doubt sets in.

LAST SEASON: Newcastle 2 West Ham 0.

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 4-0, 2-1, 2-1, -1-0, 2-0, 2-0.

**NEWCASTLE (from):** P Smicer, W Barton, J Beresford, S Hobey, P Albert, D Peacock, L Clark, G Gillespie, F Asprilla, D Gholam.

**WEST HAM (from):** P Kison, L Ferdinand, R Elliott, S Hislop, D Batty.

**LEEDS v EVERTON**

Everton do not relish trips to Leeds. Their last point at Elland Road was gleaned on September 1, 1981, and their last victory on September 1, 1981. Things can only get better and worse. Worthington and Hinchliffe, that wretched northern music-hall act, sit and sing to the latter category. Still, at least it guarantees a place for Brian, who's Tomes again. Generous gesture, Bruce, but 6-5 on it all ends in tears.

LAST SEASON: West Ham 1, Arsenal 3.

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 3-1, 1-0, 0-3, 1-3, 3-2, 0-3, 1-3.

**LEEDS (from):** Ladic, M Benayoun, C Palmer, A Gray, I Rebello, P Masina, C Coulson, S McAllister, S Deans, R Wallace, R Bowman, M Tindall, H Harris, G Kelly, M Ford.

**EVERTON (from):** J Seaman, L Dyer, P Moran, D Brembeck, D Bergkamp, I Wright, J Harison, A Clarke, S Marshall, V Bartram.

## HOW THEY STAND

	P	F	Goal diff	Recent form
1. Newcastle	28	51	+26	WWLDL
2. Manchester Utd	29	60	+27	WWWWD
3. Liverpool	28	56	+32	DWWWD
4. Aston Villa	30	55		





Saturday portrait: Frank Bruno, by David Miller

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

## Popular figure of fun fighting for the right to be taken seriously

**F**rank Bruno is by no means the first world heavyweight boxing champion with suspect credentials, if judged by the highest standards. The irony of the bout against Mike Tyson tonight at the mammoth MGM Grand Hotel here in Las Vegas — from the middle of which it takes, in any direction, five minutes to walk to daylight — is that, win or lose, Bruno will emerge smiling.

There is no parallel in the history of British sport: a champion who is so average and yet so widely popular. There is a double explanation. The heavyweight division has not been at such a low level since Primo Carnera and Max Baer were clowning in the Thirties; while Bruno has the kind of engaging, modest personality that particularly appeals to the British. He is the Tommy Cooper of the ring.

Knowing that his tricks will probably go wrong is somehow part of the attraction. Although Bruno has come to resent the fact that he is seen by many as a figure of fun, it is no coincidence that his characteristics lend themselves to pantomime. He is that paradox: a boxer who is unthreatening. "Go on, Frank, we know you aren't really nasty."

Bruno should reflect how fortunate he is to be able, because of a limited field, to enter the ring to defend his World Boxing Council title for a Lottery-sized £4 million. Nor can he complain that he is being treated like the challenger and Tyson the champion. That is a reflection of comparative boxing status as much as the manipulation of Don King, the promoter.

That Tyson is receiving five times Bruno's purse is an illustration of the extent to which the sport hangs on those once formidable qualities of Tyson's that are tonight so in question.

Bruno, you could say, has got it made. If he loses badly, inside a few rounds, as in their previous meeting in 1984, the verdict will be that Tyson retains his venom, that it was to be expected, that Bruno is again a loser who can now concentrate on his three children and his inarticulate brand of humour on the stage.

If he wins or loses over the distance, it will be said he has finally improved as a boxer, that he exposed how much Tyson's 3½ years out of the ring had robbed Samson of his strength. Were Bruno to win by an early knockout, on the other hand, he would be an unquestioned hero for the remainder of his time, critical analysis counting for nothing.

Careful assessment of past performances, however, suggests that unless Tyson's decline is more severe than even his detractors allege, a successful defence by Bruno is unlikely. Why?

First, he is not an instinctive boxer. He is a marvellously muscled, big man whose string of knockouts as a professional, following 20 wins and a defeat in his amateur career, are more attributable to shrewd matchmaking by

**'If Bruno is said to have improved, it is primarily by an increased ability to clinch'**

Mickey Duff and others against moderate opposition than to punching power equivalent to Tyson's. In his four most serious bouts, against James "Bonecrusher" Smith, Tim Witherspoon, Tyson and Lennox Lewis, Bruno never knocked his man down.

Second, he is not a natural mover. He may have been a bully at school, expelled for threatening a master, and then sent to an establishment for "difficult boys", but as a boxer he is artificial. Terry Lawless, his former manager, had to labour at making his man more mobile, employing golf and dancing to create a more balanced platform for a useful left jab and dangerous right cross. Bruno has never thoroughly out-boxed any opponent.

Third, Bruno has no spontaneous sense of defence. He reacts badly when hurt. It is not so much

that he has a glass jaw as that, when seriously attacked, as in those four most important bouts he lost, he is reduced to a state of panic. Disorganised retreat was even apparent in the last two rounds when he finally won his title against Oliver McCall, at which point Bruno was already too far ahead to be overtaken by anything other than a knockout blow, which McCall never looked like producing. If Bruno is said to have improved, it is primarily by an increased ability to clinch.

Beyond the hyperbole and the boasts of what he is going to do to Tyson, it is hard to detect Bruno's present motives. For a poor boy from Wandsworth — where his mother, Lynette, still lives — a manorial lifestyle in Essex, with swimming pool and horses, is an accomplishment beyond dreams. Certainly he does not need money, though some of the prosperity, it must be said, comes from the managerial tenacity on the commercial front of his wife, Laura.

He was not the brightest at school. Asked by a teacher where the Magna Carta was signed, he replied: "At the bottom of the page, miss", though this anecdote could well be the product of his diligent quip writer.

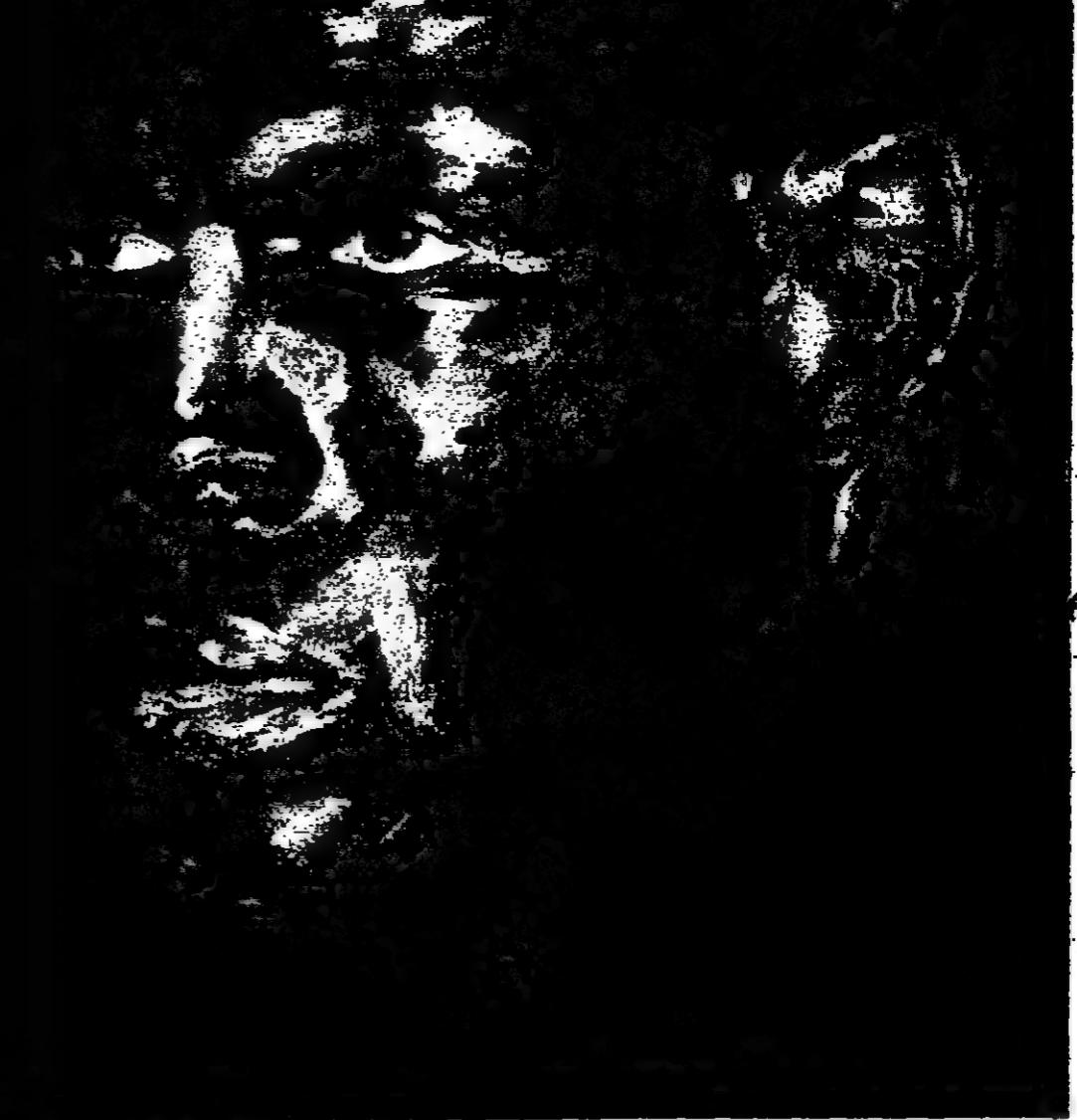
As he developed as an amateur, his elder brother, Michael, who remains part of his team, used to say: "Franklyn, God's spotlight has fallen on you." And when Bruno won the ABA title at 18, in 1980, Michael chalked above the kitchen door: "Heavyweight champion of the world, 1980".

Because of short-sightedness in his right eye, the start of Bruno's professional career was delayed by an operation in Bogota, paid for by Lawless. It was the devotion and skill of Lawless, together with the obstacle-bypass matchmaking of Duff, that steered a one-punch boxer through the shoals of mediocrity into deeper water.

As his limitations have been consistently evident, it is difficult for any but the impassioned 5,000 followers from Britain who will crowd the arena tonight to have conviction about a Tyson defeat. Overemphasis is probably placed by the optimists on the left-hand

blow with which Bruno briefly rocked Tyson here seven years ago in the first round. That is said to be the first time Tyson was seriously hurt. It was the following year that Buster Douglas pulled the trapdoor for Tyson to begin his catastrophic disintegration that ended in prison.

Yet a boxer of Tyson's age loses timing rather than speed during inactivity. Against an opponent as static and upright as Bruno, Tyson's fast hands should still



prove perplexingly difficult to evade for the bigger man.

The fascination of the bout is how either man will respond if Bruno should this time put Tyson on the canvas in the early rounds. Will Bruno have the wit and mobility to exploit the advantage? Will Tyson be able to absorb the effect? Against Douglas, he failed to show the resilience of the greatest champions of the past when having to climb off the floor.

The opinion of Johnny Tocco, the octogenarian trainer-cornerman and one of the wisest heads in town, is that Bruno's best chance may come if he can last the distance. "He mustn't give Tyson a target," Tocco said. "If you stand in the middle of the ring against him or get caught on the ropes, you're a dead tomato."

Along with other observers, such as Kevin Rooney, Tyson's former trainer, and Eddie Finch, the veteran trainer of Riddick Bowe, Tocco thinks Tyson may be incapable of lasting 12 rounds: the quality he has lost most may be stamina. Whether gaining £20 million has eroded his incentive is another matter. The oldest saying in the game is that the best fighter is a hungry fighter.

If Bruno, such an easy target for a quick opponent, can stay out of trouble and then stay the distance, maybe he can, against all the odds, discard that caricature image with which he feels he is unfairly burdened.

## Nigerian holds no fears for Hamed

BY DANIEL BARRETT

**N**ASEEM HAMED steps back into the limelight tonight when he faces Said Lawal, of Nigeria, in the first defence of the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title he took from Steve Robinson, of Wales, in Cardiff last September.

The long-awaited return — previous plans to meet Arnulfo Castillo, of Mexico, were twice postponed when Hamed fractured the metacarpus in his right hand — should prove nothing more than a warm-up for more lucrative times ahead.

Lawal, who holds the World Boxing Council international title, is based in Austria. During a career of 19 bouts, of which he has won 17, he has not encountered the class of opposition that even a ring-rusty Hamed is sure to provide at the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow.

So certain is Brendan Ingle, Hamed's manager, that Lawal will fail to blanch the Sheffield boxer's record of 20 straight victories that he is already planning ahead to possible defeats against the No 1 challenger, Daniel Alceas, of Puerto Rico, or a money-spinning showdown with the ageing but powerful super-featherweight champion, Azumah Nelson, 37.

Hamed summarily dismissed Lawal's chances, boasting: "I'll finish him off in two rounds." Despite his absence of six months from the ring, few would argue.

Another name of some note, if not notoriety, continuing his return to the ring is Joe Bugner. The 46-year-old grandfather and Australian champion meets Scott Welch, 27, the British and Commonwealth heavyweight champion, for the WBO intercontinental title. Having been refused a licence to box in Britain, Bugner is forced to meet his opponent in the Deutschlandhalle, Berlin.

The competent Welch need be wary, but should triumph. He owns two homes for the elderly on the south coast, and assured Bugner: "I'm used to dealing with old folk."

## Fluent Montgomerie sets out to rein in Spaniard

FROM MEL WEBB IN DUBAI

WITH the floods of midweek becoming but a distant and soggy memory, business at the Dubai Desert Classic was back to normal yesterday. Miguel Angel Jiménez extended his lead, but for all that the Spaniard has played superlative golf in the past two days, he cannot but be wary of the man who shares second place.

Colin Montgomerie, who is alongside Jay Townsend, four strokes behind Jiménez, is playing in his first tournament of the season, but his form is so impressive that nobody watching him could guess that he is just coming off a voluntary three-month sabbatical from the game. Three days, perhaps, but three months?

Yet it is so, and Montgomerie can scarcely believe that he is playing so well. "To get into contention as early as this is more than I expected," he said, "but as I'm in a position to win, I might as well go for it. I'm very confident."

In other, lesser, players, this might sound a touch gung-ho, but Montgomerie is not an individual given to sabre-rattling. When he is within reach of the leader — Jiménez is on 131, 13 under par — would-be winners had better



Montgomerie confident

## Lyle pays for failing to be positive

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

WHAT does it profit a man if he hits the ball 300 yards off the tee but misses the green with an eight-iron? Sandy Lyle, the man in question, is so nearly back to his best in terms of striking the ball, but his attitude is lagging far behind.

Lyle finished twelfth in the Honda Classic last week and, on the eve of the Bay Hill Invitational here, he said: "I'm on a high. I'm hitting the ball really well." So well that Jimmy Ballard, his coach, had nothing much to say to Lyle after one outstanding practice session.

Once on the course, however, Lyle tends to let his frustrations take over and, after a first round of 72, he was

worried about making the cut — although only 25 of the field had broken par. "I've never done so well at Bay Hill," Lyle fretted, annoyed at dropping a shot at the 18th, the most difficult hole on the course. That was where he launched a drive of 300 yards but wreaked his eight-iron into a vicious lie just off the green on the left. His pitch was deft but still ran ten feet past the hole and the putt stayed out.

Lyle is aware that he has missed the cut in his past four outings here — he was disqualified the time before — and even playing with Arnold Palmer, the tournament host, on an idyllic, sunny morning yesterday did not seem to

make him any less anxious. Palmer, ever ready to chat to veterans of his army in the crowd, declared: "The golf course is hard."

Lyle still made his own difficulties, dropping a shot at the 2nd and having to work hard to make his pars at the next three holes. Doubtless feeling the need for a birdie, he hoicked his drive left into the water at the 543-yard 6th and took a double-booby seven. He missed the green at the short 7th, took four and completed the front nine in 40. Missing the cut was beginning to look like a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Meanwhile, Mike Hulbert,

a man who puts one-handed,

led the tournament on 138, six

under par, after a second 69.

## Guildford boast new attack for cup defence

BY SYDNEY FRISKE

**G**UILDFORD begin the defence of the Hockey Association Cup in earnest today when they take on Reading in the quarter-finals with a reorganised front line. The return of Robinson at left half will enable Markham to move forward and sharpen the attack. Markham will operate on the left with Hall in the middle and Cartmell on the right wing.

Reading continue their two-pronged attack, launched by Mark Hoskin and Pearn, with Howard Hoskin floating behind in support. Osborn, whose services had been confined to the striking of short corners, can expect to spend more time on the field than he did last week.

Old Loughdonians are aiming to turn the tables on Southgate, who won 24 in their league meeting in November. Williams, Thompson, and Lee will be the front-runners for Old Loughdonians, with Southgate adopting a similar pattern. Woods will lead the attack with Shaw and Simons on the flanks.

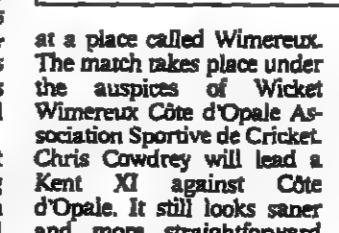
Teddington, last year's runners-up, are at full strength except that French, their goalkeeper, is injured and is a doubtful starter for the home match against Canterbury. Havant entertain East Grinstead with Nail, their captain, on the sick-list and Cudliffe unavailable, but Giles is still there to help them out.

■ Sutton Coldfield travel to Liverpool to play Hightown today with the chance to reach the top of the women's National League premier division for the first time in seven years of trying (Alix Ramsey writes). Always an impressive side on paper, Sutton have never managed to live up to their own expectations, but over the past year they have undergone a silent — and fairly painless — revolution.

Finding themselves without a coach last year, the players asked their stalwart defender, Jo Nightingale, to take a few practices. Since then she, and the team, have not looked back.

## Ravanelli uses striker's instinct to good effect

SIMON BARNES  
On Saturday



at a place called Wimereux. The match takes place under the auspices of Wicket Wimereux Côte d'Opale Association Sportive de Cricket. Chris Cowdry will lead a Kent XI against Côte d'Opale. It still looks saner and more straightforward than the scheduling of the matches in the World Cup.

He was filling up his car at a petrol station when a young chap approached him with the elegant conversational gambit: "You're that son-of-a-whore Ravanelli?" He then took a swing at Ravanelli, who responded spiritedly by whacking him in the face — breaking a bone in his hand as he did so. Another man approached him and hurled the garage open-shut sign at him. Ravanelli dodged neatly, and both his assailants vanished into the night.

Many people have had much to say on the subject; effortlessly the most absurd words came from Antonio Giraud, the Juventus chief executive, who pronounced: "The worst aspect of all this is the ideological dishonesty." Just what I was going to say.

Distaff winner

A great leap forward: the Japan Racing Association has issued licences to female jockeys for the first time in its 40-year history. Makoto Tamura, Junko Hosoe and Yukiko Makihara can now compete on the country's ten racecourses. There are no female trainers in Japan, though there are one or two female assistants.

French cricket

The cricket match of the season will take place on April 27. The match begins at 9.30, when the first innings will be played at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury. An hour and a half later, the second innings will end.

The second innings starts at 3.45. This rather long lunch break will enable both teams to catch the Shuttle through the Channel Tunnel to play the second innings in France.

Top cat

Andrew Wingfield Digby, the leader of the Christians in Sport organisation and most famous as the England cricket chaplain sacked by Ray, religion-is-for-wimps Illingworth, has recently spotted a great cat, allegedly at large in Oxfordshire and nicknamed "the Wolverine". Wingers-Diggers saw the beast when walking their dogs along Oxford Canal. "It was approximately three times the size of a domestic cat," he said. He looked it up, and believes it was a rare Asian cat called a manul.

Streets of ire

How the world is looking forward to the Coca-Cola

Time for a bit of poetry. It comes from the newly published 22 Cricket Poems by Colin Shakespeare, published by Oak Press. Here is one about Sir Len Hutton:

*There was no violence in him.  
rather  
The quiet mathematician  
Gave over to geometry  
And the study of angles.  
Arcs,  
Perimeters and perpendiculars,  
Curves and dividing lines.  
But rarely, rarely,  
the parabola.  
How's Irish*



SATURDAY MARCH 16 1996

Briton buoyed by self-belief in attempt to retain world heavyweight crown

## Bruno presents Tyson with sizeable task

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

**FRANK BRUNO** might be the champion but the world at large is not interested in him. It is more interested in Mike Tyson. It wants to find out whether, like some kraken, he will awake and devour this Englishman when they meet tonight at the MGM Grand Garden here.

More should certainly be learnt about Tyson tonight than from his last two fights. Many Americans here believe that their man will demolish Bruno in a couple of rounds. Tyson is 3-1 to win the first, despite having had only four rounds of boxing since his 3½-year absence from the ring and despite his new, most un-krakenlike demeanour. Indeed, he sometimes reminds one more of a dormouse as he sits hunched, saying in his squeaky voice that we are just human and we should conduct ourselves as such. Bruno is 25-1 to win in the first round.

The sports columnist of the Los Angeles Times, Jim Murray, one of the most respected observers of boxing, swipes Bruno out of contention with ridicule. "He has a chin of such pure Waterford Crystal, it gives rise to the adage that people who live in glass jaws should not throw punches. The biggest danger in fighting Bruno is you might get hit by flying glass... he has been on more canvases than Rembrandt. Maybe he just likes the view from down there."

The proposition is not whether Tyson can shatter the glass under Bruno's lip. The prevailing notion is any Italian tenor could do that with the high C from *'Madam Butterfly'*... and so on. Great stuff — but hardly well observed.

Bruno has been on the canvas truly only twice and, as far as his law is concerned, it is far from being as delicate as Murray makes out. James "Bonecrusher" Smith, one of the hardest punchers in the game, had to hit Bruno at least 15 times in a disastrous last round before Bruno bowed to him.

A recent rerun of the first Tyson-Bruno contest seven years ago should have reminded Murray that Bruno took everything Tyson had to give for five rounds before going down. As one watched Tyson landing uppercut after uppercut, one winced and one wondered how long Bruno could keep going, and yet he

kept going forward to fight for five rounds.

Admittedly, anything can happen when big men collide and Bruno could be on the floor with the first blow of the contest tonight, but all the indications are that Bruno is going to make it harder for Tyson than most Americans think. He is not going to disgrace himself or embarrass his followers at home. He is going to give more than just a good account of himself.

Even if Bruno does tend to get confused when caught with a good punch and flag late in the contest, mainly because he is over-muscled, he is in a more 50-50 chance.

The more thoughtful boxing experts do not rule Bruno's chances. Eddie Futch, Riddick Bowe's trainer, thinks Tyson may have taken on Bruno too early. Futch would have given Tyson four or five easy non-title bouts before putting him in with someone like Bruno.

"Bruno has a better chance than a lot of challengers," Futch said. "Tyson has been away from boxing for 3½ years and there's no possible way for any boxer to stay away that long and still be the way he was at his best."

Bruno has a good jab. If his handlers use the right tactics, they can have the jab setting up the ring and not give Tyson the punching room he needs.

Tyson always has trouble with big men, so Bruno should use his weight behind the jab."

Emanuel Steward; Lennox Lewis's trainer, said: "Bruno



Tyson: subdued

has a very good chance, because he has been active and Tyson hasn't." Like Futch, Steward confirmed that Tyson was unhappy against big men, especially those that have grown in confidence.

"Tyson is living off his reputation. They still think he is the Tyson of the Eighties," Stewar-

td makes the important point that all "action men" such as Tyson, now 29, do not have long careers. "They rely on youth for their aggression," Steward said. "He seems to have lost much of his confidence and desire. He may have taken this fight too early — of course, we'll find out more about that tonight."

The advice of Steward, who masterminded Oliver McCall's victory over Lewis, is for Bruno to prevent Tyson from making the first move by putting the pressure on him.

Before long, Steward believes,

It is Bruno's belief in himself that will carry him a long way in the fight. He is so confident that he believes he will not only beat Tyson, he will knock him out. He said: "I'm not only going to knock him out; I'm going to knock him into Don King's lap."

Tyson has also shown a tendency to get caught up in spoiling tactics. As a result, he is thrown off his stride. He loses his fluency and speed, the two assets that set him apart. Without his speed, Tyson is just another heavyweight.

Tyson has lost much of his sharpness and does not always remember to duck these days. That improves Bruno's chances greatly. But since Bruno tends to tire after six rounds, I expect Tyson to move in quickly after that stage. If Bruno does not tire after the sixth, he has a good chance of winning.

**Heavyweight betting, page 1**  
• Giles Whittell, page 15  
• Fallen idol, page 20  
• Bruno portrait, page 46



Bruno has been in confident mood while sparring with the press before his bout with Tyson in Las Vegas tonight

HOW THEY MEASURE UP		MIKE TYSON	
FRANK BRUNO			
34	AGE	29	
17st 6lb	WEIGHT	15st 10lb	
5ft 8in	HEIGHT	5ft 11in	
82in	REACH	79in	
1924in	NECK	10in	
47in CHEST (normal)	CHEST (expanded)	43in	
52in CHEST (expanded)	RICEP	45in	
17in FOREARM	WRIST	14in	
14in WRIST	HIPS	9in	
10in HIPS	WAIST	13in	
34in THIGH	THIGH	34in	
24in CALF	CALF	27in	
16in ANKLE	ANKLE	9in	
9in		11in	
RECORDS	FIGHTS	44	
44	WINS	44	
40	LOSSES	15	
1983 STOPPAGES	1987	37	
1983 1st ROUND KOs	1987	19	

## Carling hopes for crowning glory

BY DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

A GENERATION of English players has come and gone since Will Carling assumed the England captaincy in 1988. Today, against Ireland in Twickenham, in the final round of the five nations' championship, he lays it down with rugby union a changed sport and England's place in the game's global sphere markedly altered, too.

Whatever his playing virtues, there is no question that Carling has become the image of the English game. As an individual he pays tribute to a series of strong, silent players — Peter Winterbottom, Mike Teague, Dean Richards — who typify the English character, without whom English success in recent years could not have been assured, and whose company he has always enjoyed. But rugby is now public property in a way it was not eight years ago, and Carling has become part of the

succes Carling when, next season, the captaincy is addressed. "I think he's a fantastic captain," Dallaglio said. "His record speaks for itself. Anyone who can stay at the top for as long as he has deserves heaps of praise, and I don't think his record will ever be beaten."

Speculation about his own future leaves Dallaglio cold. Every England player this week, Carling included, has tried to focus on the Save and Prosper international with Ireland rather than the departure of one who has become an English institution.

Ireland have upset England's applecart twice in the past three years. They may not win the championship, but they have a say in its destiny. Three countries may emerge top of the pile by tonight. Scotland wait to see whether they are overtaken on points difference by either England or, more likely, France.

Of the newcomers this season, one, Lawrence Dallaglio, is among the contenders to

shallow world of entertainment. To that degree, rugby has been a lifeline for him, a base to which he has returned this season more successfully than ever at a time when England are going through a transitional phase. Jason Leonard, his captain at Harlequins, describes Carling as the best he has played under, and believes that his playing powers could even improve.

Of the newcomers this season, one, Lawrence Dallaglio, is among the contenders to

## FIVE NATIONS

## CHAMPIONSHIP

in fondness to his previous appearance there.

That was the University match last year when, despite Oxford's defeat, Humphreys dominated the game and the scoring. His well-organised approach paved the way for his entry to the international arena, and Dallaglio will do well to keep as close an eye upon him as he did on Gregor Townsend at Murrayfield a fortnight ago.

Amid all the clamour for expansive rugby, Twickenham's 75,000 will see some of the world's greatest teams.

The pivotal area of the rival teams seems well matched: Niall Hogan, the Ireland captain, has the experience of the World Cup last summer to fall back on, whereas Matthew Dawson's international career began only this season. His Northampton partner, Paul Grayson, will be keen to avoid the inexplicable collapse of his kicking form during England's last game at Twickenham, against Wales, whereas David Humphreys looks back

to a watershed that World Cups now provide.

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## Megson's fury at double sale

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NORWICH City were plunged back into a state of turmoil last night after the sale of two leading players in one day. Ashley Ward, the forward, joined Derby County for a fee of £1 million and Jon Newsome, the central defender, signed for Sheffield Wednesday for £1.6 million.

They became the latest names in a long list of departures from Carrow Road, and the deals prompted Gary Megson, the manager, to openly criticise Robert Chase, the chairman.

Megson said he was "flabbergasted and furious" with Chase for agreeing to the transfers as his team struggle in the Endesleigh Insurance League first division.

"I didn't sanction the moves and I am not party to either transfer," Megson said. "Every team below us is doing its utmost to ensure its survival. We are getting no help from the boardroom, and we don't expect them to be a hindrance."

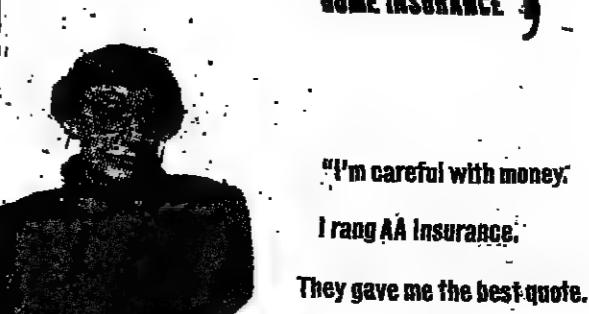
Chase, who has been heavily criticised by supporters, said they had agreed to sell the players to help to clear a £4.5 million debt to the bank.

"May I make it quite clear that Gary and I are disappointed that two players will be leaving," he said.

Duncan Ferguson, the Everton forward, will miss the FA Carling Premiership meeting with Leeds United tomorrow with a groin injury, and may be omitted from the Scotland squad for the international against Australia on Wednesday night.

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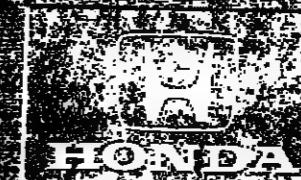
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TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM	
<b>ENGLAND</b>	
M J Catt (Bath)	15 S J P Mason (Ore)
M J Sleathorne (Bath)	14 S P Geoghegan (Bath)
*W D Carling (Harlequins)	13 J C Bell (Northampton)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12 M J Field (Moseley)
R Underwood (Leicester/RFC)	11 N K P Woods (Blackrock Coll)
P J Grayson (Northampton)	10 D G Humphreys (London Irish)
M J S Dawson (Northampton)	9 *N A Hogan (Terenure College)
G C Rowntree (Leicester)	8 N J Popplewell (Newcastle)
M P Regan (Bristol)	7 A T H Clarke (Northampton)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	6 P S Wallace (Blackrock College)
B B Clarke (Bath)	5 D S Corkery (Cork Constitution)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	4 G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution)
G S Archer (Bristol/Army)	3 J W Davidson (Dungannon)
L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)	2 W D McBride (Moseley)
D Richards (Leicester)	1 V C P Costello (St Mary's College)
Replaces: E Murray (Scotland)	* captain
REPLACEMENTS: 16 M J E B Callard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 K P Bracken (Bristol), 18 V E Ubogu (Bath), 20 R G R Dave (Bath), 21 T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army).	
REPLACEMENTS: 16 M C McCall (Bangor), 17 P A Barker (Cork Constitution), 18 C Scawennado (Sale), 19 P S Johns (Dungannon), 20 H D Hurley (Old Wesley), 21 T Kingston (Dolphin).	

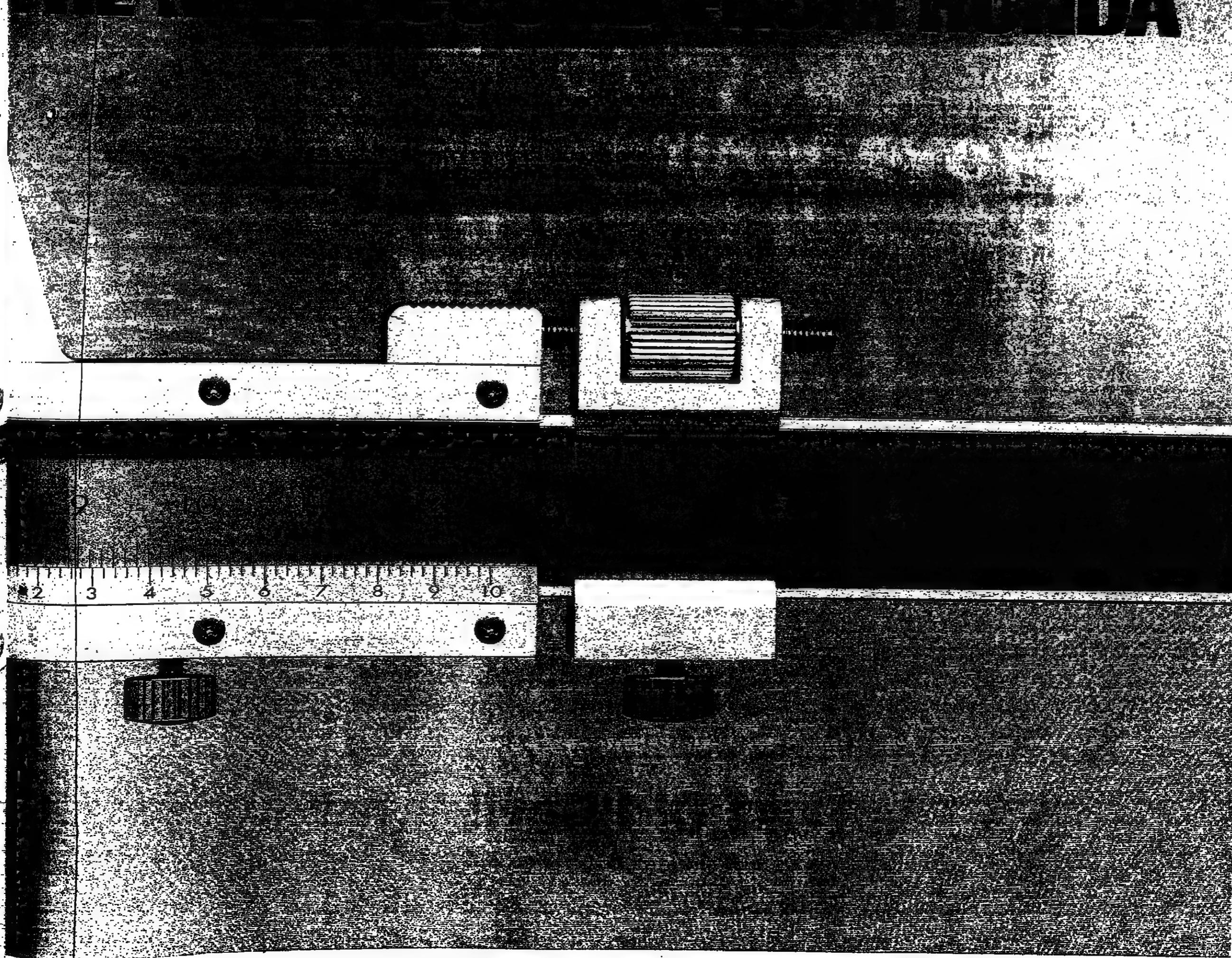


Carling caps his career as England's leader today

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**THE NEW ACCORD FROM HONDA**

# Kabul battle spawns poetry and poverty

THE Mujahidin poet never faltered as the incoming rocket fire crashed around the isolated government-held outpost, a shell-shattered hotel perched on a hilltop south of Kabul.

Cross-legged, his hands clasped before him, he closed his eyes, raising his incantations so that he could be heard above the chorus of the Taliban enemy fire. Sweat broke out on his brow with the effort of concentration:

*The Kafir fanbelievers walk into our valleys  
Yet they shall never return home  
For holy warriors shall kill them.*

*The invaders of our homes.  
Beside him a 16-year-old fighter, son of a shahid (martyr), killed fighting the Russians ten years ago, accompanied his singing on a one-string *dambura* made from an oil can and a plank. The artillery exchange worsened, rockets blasting around the outpost, mortars retaliating in single thumps.*

One young soldier in a bunker beside the hotel bashed the bent fins of a mortar round with a stone to



**Anthony Loyd reports from the Afghan capital, wrecked by 17 years of conflict that have left more than a million dead.**

straighten them before firing. For a heart-stopping moment he shook the tube angrily when the round became stuck inside. Miraculously, the weapon worked, sending its shell into the Taliban positions in the snow-swept valley beyond.

Apparently bored by their lack of direct participation in the fighting, another group of bearded Mujahidin loosed off an anti-aircraft gun at nothing in particular, roaring with laughter at the others who jumped with surprise.

A bloody ember of the Cold War, Afghanistan's conflict has left more than a million dead in 17 years of fighting, another five million refugees, the lowest life expectancy in the world (41 years for men and women), the second highest infant mortality rate, up to ten million mines lacing val-

ley, village and city alike (there are an estimated 600,000 mines in Kabul alone), random rocket attacks and breathtaking poverty.

Although beaten back last year from their furthest advances into Kabul, Taliban, a largely Pathan force of self-styled Islamic purists from the south of the fractured republic, still hold a belt of hills to the south of the city overlooking the suburbs. From there they continue to undermine their claim to be a neutral force for devout Islamists by firing rockets into the city centre almost daily.

The willing or faithful can visit the front in a 20-minute ride by decrepit taxi, yet it is the city itself that epitomises the Afghan plight. South, west, east and north, whole city quarters are little more than rubble from blasted con-

crete and crumbled earthworks.

Thousands of the displaced and dispossessed live in the ruins, crammed together at night on blankets in any room suggesting a semblance of shelter, while children run like mice through the wreckage on new walkways of collapsed floors and toppled masonry. It is truly an awesome achievement of destruction.

Although the present energy of the conflict focuses on the action between President Rabbani's government forces and the Taliban, two other players. General Abdul Rashid Dostum in the north and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to the east, hold swaths of territory containing trade routes essential to the economic survival of the country. At present, they maintain little more than unsigned ceasefires with the government forces, leaving the people of Kabul in hungry limbo until the next alliance improves or worsens their fate.

"Shahid is the heart of the story," graffiti proclaims on a billboard in the centre of the city. It is the Afghans' faith



One of a group of Taliban fighters in the hills above Kabul aims a rocket-propelled grenade launcher

that sustains them. In the torn, brown streets below the ruins of British hill forts, the people of the capital jostle for the limited selection of goods in the city bazaar: Mujahidin warriors, mullahs, traders, money changers, women and an abundance of beggars.

Those fortunate enough to

work have an average monthly wage of £20,000 Afghans (£11.80). The economy has disintegrated, there is no national export or industry, nor indeed running water or electricity in the capital.

Crippled by shrapnel from a rocket two years ago, Muhammad Osman, 66, who

Donations: Cheques or P.O.s should be made out to Afghanistan Appeal, British Red Cross, and sent to the Afghanistan Appeal, British Red Cross, Finsbury, London SW1X 7BR. For those wishing to make a credit card or Switch donation, call 0171 201 5010.

## Sudanese children sold as slaves, say Christian groups

FROM SAM KILEY IN KHARTOUM

THOUSANDS of southern Sudanese children, captured by northern Arabs in Sudan's long running civil war, have been sold into slavery or forced to convert to Islam, according to clandestine Christian groups working for their release.

According to documents obtained by The Times, and interviews with victims of slavery, the practice has been quietly condoned by the Islamic regime in Khartoum.

Most of the slave children come from the Dinka, Nuer and Shilluk tribes, nomadic pastoralists who have been traded for centuries as slaves by their northern neighbours. But since the Khartoum regime armed ethnic Arab tribes like the Bagara of Kordofan and Darfur, the practice of slavery has increased dramatically. The Nuba from central Sudan and the Toposa from the remote south close to Kenya have also fallen victim to the trade in human beings.

Using a network of undercover Dinka chiefs posing as labourers in Kordofan and neighbouring Darfur provinces, the church groups have managed to smuggle 1,000 children away from their "owners" and reunited them

with their parents. The undercover agents against slavery said that they estimate at least 3,000 other children remain to be released.

The slavery is obviously racially based. Black people are considered slaves by this regime, whatever its claims to adhere to the Koran's teachings on the equality of men," said a cleric behind the anti-slavery operation.

Testimony from southerners in Juba, close to the border with Uganda, shows that while cargoes of arms head south as part of Khartoum's war efforts, barge and planes return to the north carrying children. Those like "Sarah", taken by officers, end up as unpaid domestic workers.

"I am well treated here," she said. "I look after the officer's children and they feed me every day." Others have been found in Wad-el-Hanana village 200 miles southeast of Khartoum. They are well fed, taught the Koran, but drained of spirit of blood each week which is then sent to the front line.

The older children, undercover operator said, were given weapons training and sent to fight against their Christian and animist tribesmen in the south.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES 101 ways to improve your home

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Tomorrow and next Sunday, the Style section of The Sunday Times will be brimming with brilliant ideas to transform your home and garden. Find out how to brighten up the drabest room with scintillating splashes of colour, and how to make a garden grow where nothing grew before. There are hints and ideas galore plus the chance to send off for a FREE book with 101 more tips. There is also a prize draw to win Interiors worth £27,000. Your house will feel and look so fresh and new, you could almost believe you'd moved.



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## The Last Old Devil

"At lunch, by my count, he had two black velvets, two or three Macallans, a glass or two of white wine, then the same of red, followed by two glasses of a dessert white wine and a large Grand Marnier."

Tomorrow, The Sunday Times begins exclusive serialisation of the Amis Diaries, the controversial journals kept by Sir Kingsley Amis's biographer, Eric Jacobs, which have led to a feud with the Amis family. They throw an unprecedented and intimate light on the late, great thunderer of English letters as he relaxes, pontificates, reminisces and tries to fend off the gloom of old age before his eventual decline and death.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

One  
item  
ality

Bruno supporters bring terrace culture to Nevada as doubts are cast over Tyson training regime

## Sing along with Frank

WHATEVER happens to Frank Bruno this evening in Las Vegas, it will be a historic night for British performers here.

One hundred and fifty feet above the entrance to the world's largest hotel, where the Bruno-Tyson world heavyweight fight is to be held, a huge close-up of Britain's great hope looks down on the city of lights next to an equally enormous photograph of his fellow thespian, Michael Crawford, the star of the hotel's stage show.

Most hotels were offering odds of 7-1 against a Bruno victory but there is little doubt that 5,000 extravagant Britons will shout themselves hoarse until he or his

opponent drops. The British contingent certainly enlivened Thursday's final weigh-in. As Tyson mounted the scales in something resembling a nappy, his scant local support was drowned by British boozing and one defiant shout of "Tyson is a rapist".

The world's boxing press stood by in bemusement as Bruno stripped to his swimming trunks and the lads from the Bull's Head at Gomersal, near Leeds, let rip with "There's only one Frankie Bruno", sung to the tune of *Walking In A Winter Wonderland*. Don King, the promoter with the electric-look hairstyle, then stepped forward between the two gladiators whose bout will earn him unspecified millions of dollars whatever its outcome.

"He's got a coconut on his head," the Gomersal chorus chanted helpfully, adding "Get yourself a haircut for the lads" to the strains of *He's Got The Whole World In His Hands*.

They have come on their own and in groups, with and without tickets. But Britain's latest ambassadors to Las Vegas appear to share two things: a conviction that they will witness sporting history — via closed circuit TV at \$50 (£32) a head if not inside the arena — and a faint hope of winning back the cost of their trips in the casinos.

Martin Horsey and Mehmet Mazloum, both City traders, have \$1,000 ringside seats but no particular allegiance. "We're here for the fight," Mr Horsey said. "People say it's a lot of money to see a boxing match, but Tyson is the biggest draw of his generation.

### Punch ends actor's party

**THE LIST OF CELEBRITIES EXPECTED AT TONIGHT'S PRE AND POST-FIGHT PARTIES INCLUDES GEORGE MICHAEL, BORIS BECKER, KEVIN COSTNER, EDIE MURPHY AND JACK NICHOLSON.**

**IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE ACTOR ALEC BALDWIN, HOWEVER. HE IS OTHERWISE ENGAGED, PREPARING HIS**

**DEFENCE FOR HIS FORTHCOMING TRIAL ON CHARGES OF ASSAULTING A PHOTOGRAPHER. A KEEN AMATEUR PUGILIST, HE DOES NOT DENY THE CHARGE BUT CLAIMS HIS PRIVACY WAS BEING VIOLATED. THE ACTOR RULED OUT TAKING ON MR TYSON. "I'D PROBABLY HAVE TO DRUG HIS DRINK," HE SAID.**



Frank Bruno's wife, Laura, joins British fans at the weigh-in in Las Vegas. She and her two eldest daughters arrived for the fight from which Bruno, win or lose, will make £4 million

Besides, with any luck we'll get it all back on the tables."

Officials are relaxed about the possibility of rowdy fans on the loose among the slot machines and cocktail bars of the hotel's seven-and-a-half acre casino. Neither police nor British consular staff have made contingency plans.

Indeed, one police official said she was unaware of British sports fans' reputation for getting out of hand.

One spectator will be hoping for minimal violence even inside the ring.

Laura Bruno, the boxer's wife, is in Las Vegas with their two older daughters, Nicola and Ra-

chel, "to give Frank the support he needs," she said. Whatever the outcome, he will be £4 million richer than he was this morning, and well-placed for auditions.

Fallen idol, page 20  
Bruno portrait, page 46  
Fight preview, page 48

## Gym slips trouble old guard

IN THE COUNTDOWN TO THE BIG FIGHT, THE VETERAN TRAINER JOHNNY TOCCO HAS BECOME UNOFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR THIS CITY'S BRAVEST MINORITY — ITS TYSON-DOUBTERS.

The octogenarian Mr Tocco, whose sweat-soaked Las Vegas gym has nurtured such hulking legends as Sonny Liston and Tyson himself, told *The Times* this week that "something's wrong" with the challenger for him to have deserted to a rival gym whose distractions include "women with their butts sticking out".

Mr Tocco, at 87, is unlikely to give a warm welcome to the late addition to tonight's fight card. In what is billed as a special attraction, America's top female boxer will take on Ireland's Deidre Gogarty.

Christy Martin, of Bluefield, West Virginia, has an impressive record, with 34 wins and 25 knockouts in 38 bouts. Ms Gogarty boasts only nine KOs, but has the grim consolation of help from her family should the fight turn bloody. Both her parents are dentists.

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## ■ OPINION

Does the screen violence of films like *Reservoir Dogs* have any effect on the way we live?



## ■ THEATRE

After the cult success of its film version, *Trainspotting* returns to the London stage

## THE TIMES ARTS



## ■ ON MONDAY

Not the Wimbledon Poisoner: author Nigel Williams prepares for the premieres of two new plays



## ■ RECORDS

Vintage Joan Sutherland on film, and reviews of other new CDs and videos: Weekend, page 7

IODWELL

Confronted with incomprehensible evil, some commentators seem capable of pinpointing probable causes with remarkable assurance. What happened in Dunblane may never be understood. Yet several of Britain's most senior journalists swiftly decided that they could identify at least one demon inside Thomas Hamilton's head. Its name, they suggested, was Hollywood.

Max Hastings, Editor of the London Evening Standard, made his connection that very afternoon. He feared that "our intensely violent screen culture" encourages "those of unstable mind". William Rees-Mogg wrote similarly in *The Times*: "The people who make the most violent films, and broadcast them, must examine their consciences, to ask whether such films have reinforced the sick fantasies which may end in killing." In *The Daily Telegraph* Allan Massie went further: "Never in the history of mankind have so many people had such immediate access to images of violence with which to

corrupt their imagination."

After an atrocity, people clutch at any straw of comfort. Why should the widespread distribution of violent movies be comforting? Because it is at least a tangible subject that we might "do something about". And it gives us someone to rage against, when the obvious candidate is dead.

But is film violence a justifiable scapegoat? Linking real violence to Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* or Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* (two films often cited for unrelenting gore) may seem like the sort of glib *non sequitur* knocked out by journalists under pressure. In the past three days, however, I have heard the conjecture spoken too often by ordinary, thoughtful people for it to be easily dismissed. There is now widespread disgust at the grotesque levels of violence that are routine

in mainstream films. It is a disgust aimed not only at film-makers, but at ourselves, too. We flock to see such films, and our ticket money pays for the next one.

Our disgust may be intensified by furtive behaviour such as Warner Brothers' this week. Warners were due to release the video of *Natural Born Killers* this month. It is a film about a couple who spend a fortnight gunning down people at random. Last Wednesday, a few hours after Dunblane, Warner executives in Los Angeles decided that it would not be "appropriate" for the video to be released in Britain at present.

The timing seemed both shameless and shameful, if that is possible. As the MP David Alton commented: "If the film is not appropriate because of this horrific incident, it is not appropriate at any time." Indeed, Warners' action

renewal of the debate between supporters and liberals about screen violence. The arguments will be familiar. The suppressors will point to copycat crimes and to a general moral malaise brought about when films portray violence as thrilling and even (in the case of *Tarantino* and disciples) amusing. They have a point. There is no more chilling experience in modern entertainment than sitting in a cinema surrounded by under-age teenagers laughing at the chic killings in *Pulp Fiction*.

The suppressors may accept that the shock of violence is sometimes a legitimate dramatic device — think of *King Lear* — but will argue that today's films present violence gratuitously. Hollywood, they will say, has become adept at finding weaselly justifications for ghastly spectacles: just listen to Kathryn Bigelow's disingenuous

excuses for the voyeuristic sexual violence in her *Strange Days*; or recall the self-righteous bluster offered by *The Accused*'s producers for its graphic multiple-rape. How will the liberals reply? They will point out that the evidence linking films to behaviour is much disputed. Grotesque acts of violence were not unknown before film was invented. They will argue that censorship is a blunt weapon. Perhaps we might all agree to ban *Reservoir Dogs*. But what of Clint Eastwood's Dirty Harry movies, or John Wayne's westerns? Don't they also glorify "gun culture"? The liberals will also say that attempts at suppression usually prove counter-productive. Moral guardians kick up so much fuss about violent movies that the films' delighted publicists barely need to

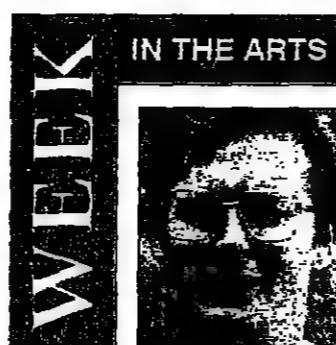
raid their own advertising budgets. Moreover, the kind of images that are suppressed from high street cinemas inevitably slip in, uncensored, via backstreet porn shops or the new electronic media that are practically unpolicable.

This week, I suspect, most of us would side with the suppressors. We would willingly burn every violent book, film and magazine that we could lay our hands on if we felt that we might be stopping another madman from tipping over the edge. But when the anger subsides, a liberal pragmatism will return. Very little will change.

I do not pretend to know what part, if any, screen violence plays in the minds of deranged killers. But I do wonder why it exerts such a hold on brilliant young filmmakers: people who, if they chose, could use their talents and global reach to enrich the human spirit instead of degrading it. Is their morbid nihilism genuine? Is it a fashion accessory? Or is it just the quickest way to make a buck in Hollywood these days?

DONALD COOPER

## Who supports violent films now?



RICHARD MORRISON

was reminiscent of Stanley Kubrick's belated decision to withdraw his *Clockwork Orange* when he became convinced that it had inspired copycat rapes.

We may now expect a furious

## Mainline to misery

**J**ust in case anybody thinks that the Whitehall has suddenly become a cinema, or that Irvine Welsh is reading extracts from his original novel in the stalls, this is advertised as *Trainspotting* — the play. And a mesmerisingly mad, bad, dangerous-to-know play it is. Seeing it is like being asked to squelch barefoot through every bodily fluid known to man.

### ■ THEATRE

**Trainspotting**  
Whitehall

"Er, I suppose the second half is much like the first?" a tweedy old gentleman asked me in the interval. "We're wondering if it's really aimed at our age group." He was

right on both counts, and left with his wife 20 minutes later, no doubt cursing a play-title deceptively reminiscent of happy boyhood days recording the numbers of puffers at King's Cross. Yet his exit was an isolated one. The canned

version of Welsh's portrait of low-life at the northern end of the East Coast line may have caused moral distress to some movie pundits; but the play did not noticeably upset the

theatre-going classes when it hit W12 a year ago, nor will it now in SW1.

Why? You can hardly call us more jaded, for Sarah Kane recently caused an almighty kerfuffle with her *Blasted*, in which a soldier raped a man, sucked out his eyes and swallowed them. But it may take more to shock theatre people and, dare I claim, we may be more experienced at distinguishing the moral from the immoral. Shakespeare had plenty of sympathy for Bardolph, Pistol and Nym, but he was hardly advocating stealing or drunkenness. For all the Elizabethan exuberance of their Edinburgh characters, Welsh and his adaptor-director, Harry Gibson, do not aim to turn their audiences into junkies either.

On the contrary, the needle clearly brings deep misery as well as transitory joy. Streetwise Mark introduces his friend Tommy to heroin, only to watch it turn him from an affable wimp into a spectre. And maybe it is not so terrible that Alison's baby dies a cot-death while she is shooting up next door. At least it will save the kid from slow destruction by the Aids virus. Again, what is so glamorous about rolling in dirty rooms, or vomiting up your fast food, or scrabbling among faeces because you have accidentally exceeded your opium suppositories?

Welsh's introduction to the play — an odd mix of Spartacist paranoia and sentimental millennialism — suggests that capitalism and "bourgeois cultural fascism" have perverted the energies of a generation. That is short-sighted, for anyone who has read Auld Reekie's history will know that it has always been violent and riotous. But it does not hugely matter, since Welsh's artistry gets the better of his dogma, and he leaves us with a vital, vivid picture of youth that, helped by drugs, joblessness and its own confusions, has succumbed to nihilism and a wild self-destructiveness.

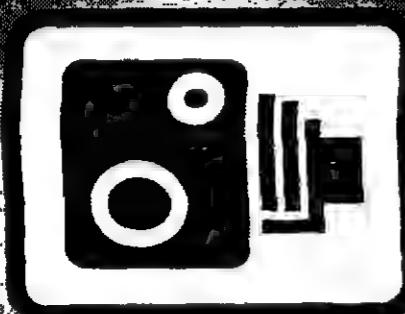
Gavin Marshall and Michelle Gomez catch the anger and turbulence as strongly as their prototypes at the Bush last March; but Paul Ireland's Mark lacks the sly, sardonic quality that Ewan McGregor brought to the role. He becomes monotonous in a flagging, feverish sort of way. That is a pity, but not a fatal one. *Trainspotting* still grips, still stings.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Strong medicine: Gavin Marshall and Michelle Gomez in Irving Welsh's "mesmerising, mad and dangerous-to-know" *Trainspotting* — "it is like being asked to squelch barefoot through every bodily fluid known to man"

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## ■ DANCE

The choreographer who came in from the cold: Michael Corder returns to Britain with a new *Cinderella*



## ■ MUSIC

Schubert's *Winterreise* goes on stage, but the spectacle proves baffling and pointless

## THE TIMES ARTS



■ BASE NOTES  
Juliette Caton will star in the £3.5 million West End musical version of *Martin Guerre*



■ BASE NOTES  
The Barbican plans to mount the first major retrospective of Derek Jarman's life and work

## ■ BASE NOTES

A CHANGE has been announced to the creative team behind *Martin Guerre*, the new £3.5 million musical which opens in the West End on June 18. It has a new lyricist in the person of Edward Hardy, the young founder of the Mercury Workshop for new composers. Hardy replaces the originally announced co-lyricist team of Herbert Kretzmer and Alain Boublil, though Boublil retains co-authorship credit on the book and Kretzmer will be credited for "additional material". No change to the score: it's still by Claude-Michel Schönberg, of *Miss Saigon* and *Les Misérables* fame.

MEANWHILE, casting has been confirmed for *Martin Guerre*. The RSC actor Iain Glen will star as Arnaud; it will be his first West End musical. And Juliette Caton, who made her stage debut at the age of 11 as the original Little Eponine in *Les Misérables* at the Barbican in 1985, is Bertrandine.

AND speaking of *Les Misérables*, the tenth anniversary gala concert performance, which took place last October at the Albert Hall, is being released as a video on Monday. The concert performance stars the original "Jean Valjean" Colm Wilkinson leading a company of 250 artists and 100 musicians of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The finale features "Jean Valjeans" from all over the world singing in their native languages. That should be an impressive display: *Les Misérables* has had more than 30 productions.

THE many talents of the late Derek Jarman are the subject of a forthcoming season at the Barbican Centre. The first major retrospective of his life and work will "consider the diversity and impact of his career as an artist, filmmaker, stage designer, writer, gardener and influential figure in gay politics". The exhibition in the Barbican Art Gallery (May 9-Aug 18) features more than 200 works, including paintings, theatre designs, photographs and his Super 8 films. A complementary celebration of his film work is being presented by the Barbican Cinema (May 11-26). Jarman died in 1994.

ANOTHER British orchestra has picked a top instrumentalist as its musical adviser. The Ulster Orchestra has announced that the violinist-turned-conductor Dmitry Sitkovetsky is to be its principal conductor and artistic adviser for the next three years. The Northern Sinfonia already has Heinrich Schiff, the distinguished cellist, as its musical head. The Soviet-born Sitkovetsky has held the post of artistic director of the Seattle International Music Festival since 1993. He takes over in Belfast next season.

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## ■ MUSIC

Schubert's *Winterreise* goes on stage, but the spectacle proves baffling and pointless

Choreographer Michael Corder tells Allen Robertson about his big home debut

## Exiled prince has a ball

The London premiere of a full-length ballet is the sort of event that gives choreographers sleepless nights. A defining moment for anyone, it is of special significance to Michael Corder. His *Cinderella*, which arrives at the Coliseum on March 25, will be the first of his three-act ballets to be seen in his home town.

His *Cinderella* has proved a money-spinner on the road (it opened in Southampton last month to queues at the box office). The English National Ballet management is so convinced it has a hit on its hands that *Cinderella* has been scheduled for two London seasons: it will be seen again in June at the Festival Hall.

The 41-year-old Corder was once a shining hope at Covent Garden. But nearly a decade ago, when his golden-boy stature suddenly seemed to tarnish, he abandoned England for a job with the Royal Danish Ballet. It has been a long haul to get himself back on to the London dance map. Corder joined the Royal Ballet when he was 17, by which time he had already started making his own dances. In 1982 his third commission from the Royal, *L'Invitation au Voyage*, won him his first Olivier Award nomination. His *Wand of Youth* was devised for Sadler's Wells (now Birmingham) Royal Ballet. It led to a second Olivier nomination.

But not everything went so smoothly for Corder. In 1985 he collaborated with the painter Helen Frankenthaler on *Number Three*, another commission for the Opera House. It ended in backstage chaos when Corder and Frankenthaler clashed over her costume designs. "Suddenly", Corder says, "lawyers got involved and, in the words of Dawn French, it all went horribly, horribly wrong."

A last-minute compromise was agreed and the costumes were replaced, but for only half of the performances. Corder's was a pyrrhic victory, as he now admits: "I was impulsive. It was the arrogance of youth. And the minute you do something like that you are branded as 'difficult'. What I think comes down to is that I have never been a 'Yes sir, no sir, three bags full, sir' person. That caused a lot of friction. So who was left to be the scapegoat? Me."

The two years he spent in Copenhagen led to more trauma. No sooner had he arrived in Denmark than he found himself on the operating table. He spent a full year recuperating from the surgery to repair an Achilles tendon. "It was a very low time in my life," he says.



Monica Perego, David Peden and Elisabeth Miegge in a scene from *Cinderella*, choreographed by Michael Corder



Corder: "I have never been a 'Yes sir, no sir' person"

says. "I wasn't sure I was ever going to dance again. I'd lost my confidence completely as a choreographer. I had to start from scratch." Only now, he believes, is he really starting to reap the benefits of the many hours he spent alone in his Copenhagen flat, lying on the sofa listening to music. A favourite choice for the turntable was Prokofiev's *Cinderella*.

Although Corder eventually did get back on the stage, it is his talent as a choreographer that has proved to be his trump suit. Over the past few years he has worked as a freelance artist around the world, from Japan to Brussels and Seville. "It has been wonderful, and I've learnt a lot, but at this point in my

career I should be a resident choreographer working in depth with one group of dancers. To be honest, I would rather be doing that than travelling round the world living out of a suitcase."

So, at last, Corder has come back home to work with ENB. "About 18 months ago," Corder says, "I went to see Derek [Deane, ENB's artistic director] and an old dancing mate from his Royal Ballet days] to see if he might be interested in doing any of my work. He offered me *Cinderella* right then and there. I was absolutely gobsmacked — and needless to say, delighted."

"I have never found any company, bar none, that works as hard," he adds. "Over the past three years,

since he took over ENB, Derek has done a brilliant job. He has raised the standard of dancing and of discipline unrecognisably. So, now there is a very healthy, creative atmosphere there."

Corder did his first three-act ballet, a *Romeo and Juliet* for Oslo, in 1992. A triumph, it has remained in the company's repertoire ever since.

Even so, some of the British ballet establishment have lamented the fact that it is too close to the Royal's own version by Kenneth MacMillan. Corder has gone out of his way to make certain that his new *Cinderella* is as far away as you can get from Frederick Ashton's much-loved production for the Royal Ballet.

"It is like doing something with the sword of Damocles hanging over your head," he says. "But I didn't see the point of doing a duplicate production. And the truth is that my *Cinderella* has nothing to do

went after is a

musical interpretation

as near to

Prokofiev as

possible.

You see, the only reason I ever danced or choreographed is music. Every single thing — the image, the ideas, the structure and the steps that I choreograph —

comes from the music. I studied piano while I was in the Royal Ballet School,

so I can read music, and for

me composers are the highest.

If I came back in a different life, I would like to be a

composer. But not a mediocre one, only a fabulous one."

● *Cinderella* opens at the Coliseum, London WC2 0171-632 8200 on March 25

## Delta lady with her torch aflame

■ CABARET  
Rita Coolidge  
Café Royal

At the Green Room, Coolidge appears in a minimalist format, accompanied by the duo of Tim Vezey and Martin Cohen. Still nervous perhaps in this new, exposed setting, she took few risks with the standards, and the arrangements lacked the harmonic and rhythmic variety that bona fide jazz players would have brought to them.

The heart-on-sleeve sincerity of the vocals — every bit as pure as they were two decades ago — made up for that shortcoming. Coolidge and her musicians seemed at their most comfortable when the tempo was raised a peg or two on *Hallelujah, I Love Her So* and the funky *The Way You Do the Things You Do*. With the audience supplying finger-snaps on Peggy Lee's *Fever*, the absence of a drummer went unnoticed.

CLIVE DAVIS

## Wasted journey

■ MUSIC THEATRE  
Winterreise  
Lyric, Hammersmith

find instead a timeless bleakness in these 24 songs. But the result is mainly just baffling and distracting.

Hunched in an overcoat, Hill gives an intense, dramatic account of his wintry wanderings. Behind him, the landscape of Central Europe unfolds, filmed in black-and-white through the window of a moving train; around him, a young woman and two men (identical middle-aged twins) sit, enigmatic things.

Piles of luggage; electric lamps; discarded clothing; Europe in monochrome: the images are those Boltanski has always used to deal with memory, identity, loss and death. The distance between his themes and Schubert's is not great; a journey that brought them together might well be worth undertaking. But I wouldn't start from here.

IAN BRUNSKILL

Michael Edwards and Carole Winter present the Bristol Old Vic Production

KEVIN DINAM

ROBERT EAST

TONY HAYGARTH

TIM HEALY

MAURICE KAUPMANN

ALAN MACNAUGHTAN

DOUGLAS MCFERRAN

STUART RAYNER

CHRISTOPHER SIMON

PETER VAUGHAN

TIMOTHY WEST

KEVIN WHATELY

REGINALD ROSE'S

## TWELVE ANGRY MEN

HAROLD PINTER

Set Designer EILEEN DISS

Costume Designer TOM RAND

Lighting Designer MIC HUGHES

Sound Designer TOM LISHMAN

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# Taxing the young to pay for the old

Labour's pension plans are expensive, says Peter Lilley

The key issue facing every developed country is how to ensure adequate pensions for the rising number of elderly people. In most countries, pensions are already the biggest single item of government expenditure. In the UK, for example, state pensions account for over £20 billion a year of public expenditure. That is over a third of the social security budget and around a tenth of total public spending. In countries where pensions are funded largely through taxes, an increasing elderly population implies a potentially unsustainable increase in taxes to pay for it.

The UK is better placed to face these challenges than any country in the developed world. We have made it worthwhile for growing numbers to opt out of the state earnings-related pensions scheme (Serps) into personal and occupational pensions. As a result, British pension funds now have assets of almost £600 billion. That is more than all the other members of the European Union put together.

We plan to build on these achievements by enabling people to build a third voluntary tier of funded pension provision on top of the basic state pension and the current compulsory second pension. The Pensions Act will increase confidence in occupational pensions by creating a secure and affordable framework of regulation. We will give older people bigger National Insurance rebates to make it more attractive for them to obtain and keep a personal pension. And we will be examining further steps to encourage the growth of group personal pensions so that more small employers can make pension provision for their employees.

Labour's policy would undermine these achievements and threaten much higher future levels of taxation. First, they plan a "guaranteed minimum pension" (GMP). This would involve a significant extension of means testing, which would be a major disincentive for people to make their own provision for retirement and punish people who did save. This is because pensioners with modest savings or private pensions would lose up to a pound of the GMP for each pound of extra income from private savings. It goes without saying that an increase in the state guaranteed minimum income for pensioners would also imply a large increase in taxes to pay for it.

Following my criticisms of this policy, Chris Smith has tried to deny that Labour is committed to a guaranteed minimum income for pensioners. As he wrote in *The Times* on February 20: "Labour has not made a commitment to a guaranteed minimum pension." He forgets Tony Blair's party conference pledge last autumn that "the aim of the policy is... to guarantee a minimum income... in old age". It is time that Mr Smith apologised for misleading readers of *The Times*.

If Labour wants people to go on saving more for their old age, while Labour's policies are making it less attractive

Labour is making it less attractive for people to save money

the yield on the government-run provident fund has only been 2 per cent a year since 1980, compared with almost 10 per cent a year for UK private pension funds. This translates into a Singaporean pension a quarter of the size of a British pension for an equivalent investment. So allowing a Labour government to dictate pension fund investment would mean smaller pensions for today's savers.

Lastly, Labour would undermine our attempts to control spending on state pensions. Labour continues to hint at spending more on the basic pension. And Mr Smith's article leaves open the possibility of returning Serps to an unsustainably high level. Given that the Government already spends on pensions around half of what it raises from income tax, Labour's spendthrift attitude should make taxpayers very worried indeed.

Indeed, the threat from Labour to pensioners and taxpayers is real. Although many of his public pronouncements have been a calculated exercise in evasion, Chris Smith's words to date imply significantly higher levels of public spending and much lower incentives for people to provide for their own old age.

Anyone interested in the size of their tax bill, or in their standard of living in retirement, will want to hold Mr Smith to his promise of producing detailed and costed pensions policies when he unveils his review of social security policy on May 8.

The author is Secretary of State for Social Security.

For black American youth, Big Mike has lost his title as the people's champion, says Quentin Letts

From a boxing ring in Las Vegas we will learn tomorrow whether Mike Tyson is again the meanest fighter in the world. The former undisputed heavyweight champion, still recovering his form after a spell in jail, is taking on our own Frank Bruno. After a few cartilage-mincing moments, or perhaps a little longer, one man will lift the title of global biffier.

Even before the first bone is crushed, however, the back-of-the-ball swells of American opinion have signalled a result in a very different contest. In the bruising struggle for street popularity, Tyson was shown this week to have the equivalent of a glass jaw. From the people who used to cheer for him, in the poorer suburbs and particularly among young blacks, there has been a resounding "so what?" to tonight's square-up. In the late Eighties and early Nineties Tyson was their main man, their champion against the onslaughts of the white-run world. Now, to many young Americans, Big Mike is museumsville.

The Vegas bout has failed to generate much pre-bell interest in the United States. The promoters threw themselves into their normal routines but for little reward. Tyson himself, yearning for great acclaim, reached for the O.J. Simpson button. He said for the O.J. Simpson button. He said

for people to do so, then Labour will have to make additional saving compulsory. Chris Smith gave a clear hint that that was his intention when he praised the Singaporean model in his letter to *The Times* of January 5. Recently, Mr Smith has tried to buck away from his early enthusiasm for Singapore. But until he pledges himself explicitly not to raise compulsory contributions for employers or employees, people may legitimately fear that a Labour government would do just that. Higher contributions for employers would destroy jobs. And higher compulsory contributions for employees would leave fewer pounds in people's pockets.

But the danger from Labour consists not just in increasing compulsory contributions but in diverting existing contributions. Labour's flirtation with the Singaporean and Australian pension systems can be explained by the power they give government and trades unions over pension fund investments. Mr Smith wrote in *The Times* on February 29: "I want to develop a better way of using this existing contribution through a partnership between government and private sector." If this means anything, it means greater state interference in investment by occupational and personal pensions schemes. This would imply a lower rate of return on pension investment, leading to smaller pensions, even in Singapore.

From this it is a short step to Oxford University and the affair of the Flick fortune. In response to Oxford's pleas for private support, a sum of £435,000 has been given by Gert-Rudolph Flick for a university professorship in European Thought.

The chair, not unreasonably named after Dr Flick, has been allocated to Balliol College, where the incumbent is now a fellow. A campaign has been raised against the donation, on the grounds that the money comes from a fortune which, in the hands of Dr Flick's grandfather, contributed to the Nazi war effort and used slave labour during the war. The grandfather was convicted at Nuremberg and spent some time in prison. Much has been made of this in gossip columns and in *The Guardian*, as has Dr Flick's playboy lifestyle, his nickname "Muck" and his costly divorce. The money is thus held to be tainted by a variety of direct and indirect associations. According to the campaigners, it should not be cleansed by the saintly liberalism of Oxford University or what some regard as the even more saintly liberalism of Balliol College.

Balliol has no problem with the donation. This week its governing body accepted the chair unanimously. Normally what is politically correct with Balliol is correct with the world. Its stern Victorian quadrangles have long stood sentinel at the corner of Broad Street, vetting each passing intellect for moral probity. The aesthetics of neighbouring St John's and Trinity might pour red paint on Balliol's roofs and shove its scarred and bearded inhabitants into the gutter. But this cannot stem the tide of rectitude that ebbs and flows through its gates. Balliol still bears

the sons and grandsons, who else will take up the burden?

That Balliol should be the home of the Flick chair is doubly ironic. Its founder, John of Balliol, represented everything that the college claims to oppose. The richest baron in 13th-century England, he owned serfs and slaves galore. When his Galloway lands were disputed, he threw the local lord in his dungeon. He fought Simon de Montfort and helped to crush England's fledgeling democracy and its first Parliament. His son was briefly King of Scotland, began that country's dubious alliance with France, lost the Stone of Scone and died in prison. I am amazed that Dr Selbourne, a Balliol man, ever associated with this dreadful family.

Faithful historians might look further into Balliol's history. The college was founded by John of Balliol only after he had kidnapped the Bishop of Durham, Walter de Kirkham, who made him seek penance by paying for 16 scholars at Oxford. The idea was not Balliol's and the payment was endowed by his widow, Dervorguilla. At the very least, the campaigners should demand a change in the college's name to Kirkham or even Dervorguilla (since it now takes women).

ghostly glimpses of strange characters at a table on a shadowy platform covered in serpents and beetles; the vision flashed by seemingly suspended in mid-air.

I can reassure them. What they witnessed was the scene at Down Street, the station abandoned in 1932 and used as a wartime meeting place for Churchill and Eisenhower. It was the location for a BBC series from the fantasy writer Neil Gaimon being filmed by Lenny Henry's Crucial Films.

• For a nation that quibbles about the use of such names as Burgundy and Champagne, the French appear to have committed treachery. A new French claret has been called Australie and the Aussies are hopping.

Dog gone

SADLY missing from Cruft's today is the event's most constant exhibitor, 91-year-old Angel Negal. He has decided not to show miniature smooth-haired dachshunds because two of his prize bitches are in whelp.

Angel has been a trouper at the show: he first started showing in 1939 and has since bred more than 40 champions. He wanted to be

But young America changed while he was doing time for rape. For all it cares, he might be punching thin air in Vegas tonight.

Protest of the new rules of engagement came this week when a black basketball player, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, was suspended for refusing to stand during the playing of the national anthem. Abdul-Rauf, a guard with the Denver Nuggets, was known as Chris Jackson before he converted to Islam. A soft-spoken, serious man, he said the *Stars and Stripes* was incompatible with his religious beliefs and symbolised "oppression and tyranny".

The American League of Veterans threw a tantrum, calling Abdul-Rauf's actions "tantamount to treason", and the pick-up-driving classes drawled that Abdul-Rauf should "go back to where he came from" (Mississippi, actually). Leading political pundits debated the issue on television talk shows, and newspaper polemicists entered the fray with gusto, noting that the player, who has a four-year contract with the Nuggets worth \$11.2 million, seemed happy to accept currency which states "In God We Trust". Out in Mike Tyson's former constituency, meanwhile, Abdul-Rauf was an instant hit. A black friend from New York's Queens borough told me: "The neighbourhood loves this guy. He is speaking up for a whole lot of people who feel that the American dream has passed them by."

Abdul-Rauf's quietly stated rebellion matches the spirit of the hour. In the late Eighties, when Mike Tyson burst onto the scene like a snarling wolf, America was fascinated by raw strength. Today a cleverer spirit of rebellion prevails, and Abdul-Rauf's black Islamic dissent fits neatly alongside the agitation of Louis Farrakhan, the Chicago demigod

who led last autumn's Million-Man March on Washington and who quick to comment on Thursday that "if this young man obeys his conscience and the command of God, we should not punish him". Admirers compared Abdul-Rauf to the American sprinters who gave black power salutes at the Mexico City Olympics, and, more wounding for Tyson, to Muhammad Ali, another Muslim who rejected the American flag during the Vietnam War. The tale of this tape is that it has reward 25 years. Abdul-Rauf is a symbol for the new order.

Tyson has tried to change his image. When he left prison last March he flaunted his own, newfound Islamic faith, and went directly to a mosque to pray. But his doubters may ask why he has not changed his name, like the former Chris Jackson and like the one-time Louisville Lip, Cassius Clay.

Abdul-Rauf's protest is costing him more than \$30,000 a game during his suspension. Young blacks think "Hey, the guy must be serious".

This week Mike Tyson tried to buy in to the victim market by stating that he was innocent of the rape which landed him in jail for three years. "I was the one that got raped," he said. Wrong verb. He has been upstaged by the politicisation of black American youth — in short, knocked flat.

# Sins of the founder revisited

If Flick money is too tainted for some Oxford academics, they should recall the murky origins of Balliol College

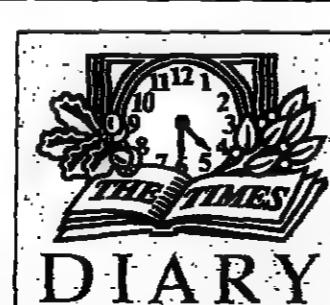
There is nothing as broad-minded as a university. The goddess Wisdom must embrace intolerance and unreason, malice and discord, prejudice and hatred. I spent five years in a university and witnessed speakers shouted down, seminars disrupted, imbecilities and obscenities uttered that would discredit a public bar.

Campaigners, led by Oxford-educated academic Michael Pinto-Duschinsky and David Selbourne, are appalled by the arrival of Flick money. No matter that Dr Flick was just three years old when Hitler died and has fiercely denounced his grandfather's allegiance. No matter that his money has been wisely and legally invested since mostly in the Mercedes car company, and was cleared by Oxford's own fundraising ethics committee. No matter that Balliol, and the rest of Oxford, would presumably accept money from German banks or other sources dating back to the 1930s.

The fault lies in the name and the taint. Academics have sensitive souls. As they perambulate the Broad and High they carry on their shoulders the guilt of history. If they do not visit the sins of the fathers on the sons and the grandsons, who else will take up the burden?

That Balliol should be the home of the Flick chair is doubly ironic. Its founder, John of Balliol, represented everything that the college claims to oppose. The richest baron in 13th-century England, he owned serfs and slaves galore. When his Galloway lands were disputed, he threw the local lord in his dungeon. He fought Simon de Montfort and helped to crush England's fledgeling democracy and its first Parliament. His son was briefly King of Scotland, began that country's dubious alliance with France, lost the Stone of Scone and died in prison. I am amazed that Dr Selbourne, a Balliol man, ever associated with this dreadful family.

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Balliol benefactor Gert-Rudolph Flick, left, and the Oxford college's founder, John of Balliol

Down to the present century, the college was known for grasping money from "sojourners". It won the richest medieval library in England from a former Bishop of Ely. It awarded an MA to George Neville, brother of the Earl of Warwick, whose acceptance banquet was the greatest Oxford had known. In the 16th century Balliol remained fiercely Catholic and its Master celebrated the Marian Counter Reformation by burning Latimer and Ridley at the stake. The campaigners should demand an assessment of Balliol's estate and the restitution of money to descendants of his victims.

An old saw holds that behind all great fortunes lie great crimes. But what should later owners of those fortunes do with them? Had Dr Flick spent his millions privately on reinvestment or on his wife, he might have been spared the vilification of distinguished academics. Instead he has chosen to give quantities of money to charity. Perhaps in some measure he does seek to sanitise the family name. I cannot see what is

dishonourable in that. I wonder if his opponents would refuse awards from a Nobel, a Pulitzer, a Peabody or a Rockefeller — or even stop to ask how those fortunes were acquired? (Pulitzer was the most scandalous muckraker in newspaper history.)

In this miasma of hypocrisy I do not see the objectors to Dr Flick's bequest protesting at the £500,000 that he gave to Hammersmith Hospital. They did not leap into print to accuse him of condemning the hospital to guilt by association with Nazism and the Holocaust.

They did not claim that the National Health Service had become a slave to the enslavement of Jewish labourers. Perhaps they believe that poverty qualifies morality. Or perhaps they simply believe that universities are a higher form of institutional life and must work to a different moral code.

This is all no small matter. In a letter to *The Times* on Thursday, Lord Shaws cross wrote that the concept of a war crime required the principle of "individual not collective,

let alone family, guilt". If we lump together families, governments and armies in this way, he implied, we allow individual wrongdoers to pass responsibility to the collective. Dr Flick's grandfather was adjudged a criminal at Nuremberg, in defiance of any claim to be obeying orders or conforming to the laws of the regime. By the same token, Dr Flick cannot be damned by family association, nor should the property that is his. It is on this principle of individual rather than group responsibility that the edifice of war-crime law rests.

British higher education has always benefited from the support of wealthy people. From the 1940s to the 1980s this support dwindled in the face of a near-total reliance on the State. Those days are over. Plural funding is accepted as the key to expansion. If historians are to crawl over the family trees of every donor, universities will wither. Donors will seek less sensitive, and perhaps less hypocritical, outlets for this form of supertax. Balliol and Oxford have wisely recognised the danger.

# Treble chance

SIX CENTURIES of tradition are to come to an end this autumn when girls are admitted for the first time to St George's School, Windsor, which supplies choristers for the Queen's Sunday services.

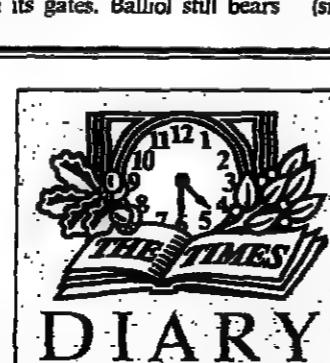
The prospect of young girls in pigtails singing lustily from the choir stalls of St George's Chapel is being discounted for now. "We are taking girls, but they are not going to be choristers — at least for the time being," said the Rev Roger Marsh, headmaster of St George's.

If Labour wants people to go on saving more for their old age, while Labour's policies are making it less attractive

"it's a decision which will have to be talked about."

Mr Marsh says girls will be introduced initially into a new prep school, although a handful will join the prep school itself. He has launched a £2 million appeal to enlarge the school, which has only 65 pupils and has provided an education for choristers since the 14th century.

"Some members of the Royal Family have given a bit," he says, adding that enlargement is essen-



ghostly glimpses of strange characters at a table on a shadowy platform covered in serpents and beetles; the vision flashed by seemingly suspended in mid-air.

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Angel has been a trouper at the show: he first started showing in 1939 and has since bred more than 40 champions. He wanted to be

there this year but he is nevertheless disillusioned.

"It's all too commercial nowadays," he tells me. "Everything is geared towards advertising and they even have events where dogs are expected to play games."

• Lady Helen Windsor's husband Timothy Taylor hobbed along with his leg in plaster to a gala dinner on Thursday at the Whitechapel Gallery in London. He was dismayed when one of the guests at his table, Damien "pickle" Hirst,

failed to show. If Hirst had got to

work on his plaster, he could have

sold it and recouped the cost of the

skiing holiday on which the accident occurred.

## Oh brother

I HAVE heard that *Psychoanalytic Diana*, a Channel 4 programme in which a royal lookalike will play the Princess of Wales as she is investigated by a Freudian psychoanalyst, may well suggest that she is suffering from a "brother fixation".

It is rumoured that the television psychoanalyst, Dylan Evans, will come up with the extraordinary notion that Diana is closer to her sibling Charles, now Earl Spencer, than she has been to any other member of her family. He makes great play of the fact that Diana even married a man with the same Christian name as her brother. It all sounds too ridiculous to be true.

## Naked jape



## COLLECTIVE ERROR

**Major must not muzzle his ministers in a referendum**

The year is 1998. The Conservative Cabinet has recommended that Britain should give up the pound and join a European single currency. All 43 million people on the electoral register are given several weeks of a referendum campaign in which to make up their minds on the issue, and will then have a free vote. The only exceptions are 100 odd Tory MPs who are members of the Government and are obliged to vote for the Cabinet's line: not just in the ballot box but in the course of the campaign too. Absurd? Not if Kenneth Clarke and his friends in today's Cabinet get their way.

Barbara Castle, planning the 1975 referendum on Britain's membership of the Common Market, knew how dangerous an insistence on traditional collective responsibility would be. "I wanted a free hand for everyone during the referendum campaign," she wrote in her diaries. "Freedom to choose must feed back from the people into the Cabinet. Otherwise the party would be entirely split".

The oddity of today's discussions is that those who advocate collective responsibility claim to do so precisely in order to prevent splits. They argue that the decision to suspend the normal rules during the 1975 campaign caused tensions in the Labour Party that were never resolved – and eventually led to the departure from Labour of four of its senior members and the formation of the Social Democratic Party. Yet the proponents of this case fail to consider what would have happened had the dissenters in Harold Wilson's Cabinet been forced to toe the pro-European line. They would have resigned en masse, all seven of them, making Harold Macmillan's "little local difficulty" when he lost three Treasury ministers look as trivial as he wanted people to believe at the time.

The same would happen in 1998. Were Michael Portillo, Peter Lilley, Michael Howard, John Redwood, Michael Forsyth

and William Hague to be members of that Cabinet, it is almost inconceivable that they could publicly support Britain's membership of economic and monetary union. To expect them to swallow their powerfully held beliefs on a matter of huge political, economic and constitutional importance would be cruel and unusual punishment. Surely they would resign rather than fight for what they saw as the wrong side.

One of the main reasons for holding a referendum is that support for and opposition to Britain's membership of a single currency do not fall neatly along party lines. If they did, it would be easier to argue that a general election could resolve the matter. As it is, both main parties are deeply and clearly divided: it would be an insult to the public's intelligence and a negation of the point of the referendum to enforce collective responsibility on this matter during the campaign.

By 1975, the foundations of the Labour Party's split had already been laid. Roy Jenkins had resigned the deputy leadership three years before in protest at the anti-European stance of much of his party. Harold Wilson was having as much trouble holding his MPs together than John Major has now. Roy Jenkins, like Mr Clarke, was against the whole idea of a referendum, which he described as a "monstrosity". Yet the referendum did not hasten the split; if anything it created for a short while the impression within Cabinet of greater unity, as the losers agreed to abide by the result.

If the Conservative Party is going to divide over Europe, it will do so with or without a referendum, with or without collective responsibility. But at least if ministers are free to argue their case, the campaign will be conducted with honesty and vigour. To hold a referendum and then muzzle ministers would be a typical Majorite tactic: a short-term fudge to appease colleagues which only turns sour when it really matters.

## ZIMBABWE'S CHOICE

**The electoral farce reflects wider worries**

Zimbabwe's five million eligible citizens will go to the polls in the presidential election to be held today and tomorrow. The outcome of this contest can be safely predicted. Robert Mugabe, incumbent President and head of government since 1980, will be returned to office. The only issue of consequence is the size of the turnout.

This prediction can be made with such confidence because Mr Mugabe is the sole remaining candidate. A week ago he had two opponents. On Tuesday the independent candidate, Ndanbanjwi Sithole, withdrew, citing a bizarre government plot against him. Rather more importantly, the remaining Opposition candidate, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, left the contest yesterday after his appeal to the Supreme Court for a postponement of the elections was rejected.

Bishop Muzorewa's appeal centred on the conditions governing the campaign. His United Party, too poor even to afford a telephone in its campaign offices, did not have the resources to wage a reasonable fight. Meanwhile, he argued, the Government's control over the media, its partisan appointment of poll supervisors and the lavish use of state funds to impress voters made a mockery of free and fair elections. Maybe Mr Mugabe would have been re-elected even on a more level playing field. Maybe suspension of elections at this late stage was hopelessly impractical. But the bishop's case certainly had merit.

This unsatisfactory ballot is made more worrying because it fits a pattern of recent events that have damaged Zimbabwe's democratic structure, a structure which has broadly held firm, with many imperfections, since independence. State control of the

media is a case in point. This year government pressure led to the dismissal of the Editor of *The Financial Gazette*, the sole newspaper prepared to campaign against corruption in high places. Since then, that newspaper has dropped its criticisms of the Mugabe regime.

During his re-election campaign Mr Mugabe has denounced the World Bank and the IMF for attaching conditions, such as a small degree of privatisation, to their financial aid for the country. He has again returned to attack on white farmers and to the threat of land seizure without proper compensation. Much of this may be election politics. But it does not augur well for democratic or economic reform in the next Mugabe term.

The real choice that Zimbabwe faces, therefore, is not at these elections but after them. The choice is between two African models. The first is the recent modernisation route represented by South Africa and, to a lesser extent, by other neighbouring states such as Malawi and Zambia that have moved towards greater political pluralism and market liberalisation. The second, much less appealing and less likely to attract foreign investment, is the route followed by Nigeria and Zaire, where even the trappings of electoral democracy have been jettisoned.

For all Mr Mugabe's authoritarian instincts, Zimbabwe has been a success story in many ways during the 16 years of majority rule. Its relative tolerance helped to persuade white South Africans that apartheid could be safely abandoned. It would be unfortunate if this tolerance were to be reversed after having set an encouraging example to others.

## ARMOUR AND LIGHT

**There is much more to blades than meets the eye**

When the Queen opened the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds yesterday, she visited the oldest perquisites and props of the monarchy. Although George II, an excitable, little red-faced warrior in armour on a big horse at Dettingen, was the last monarch to lead his troops into battle, arms and armour remain powerful tools for catching and holding the public imagination.

Some of the pieces, such as the grotesque horned helmet mask Maximilian I of Germany gave to Henry VIII, and Henry's magnificent armour for the Field of Cloth of Gold were personal armour of the monarch. More were worn and wielded by soldiers of the Crown. And all of them have stories to teach about the past of the United and Not-So-United Kingdom.

The White Tower has been used as the royal armoury since William the Conqueror built it. But the Norman Kings also used it as a royal residence and a prison for troublesome members of their households. Though the Queen may sometimes feel tempted, there is no merit in continuing all original functions in the Tower unchanged.

Leeds can display 90 per cent of the blades and other arms which are such a big part of British history, instead of the 10 per cent that will stay on show in the Tower. They can be looked after and fit better in their new home. Scholars will still know where to present arms in style. And visitors can have their imaginations fired by the sharpest visual aids to history.

bishops swung in battle in the pious hope of not shedding blood. And weapons of death and defence can be surprisingly beautiful as well as ancient. See the picture of the Hall of Steel in today's *Magazine*.

The dispute about moving the Royal Armouries to Leeds was not about the Watford Gap being the impermeable barrier between North and South. The armories display their own subtlety to that argument: once bloody now boring. With the modern jousting and audio-visual and computer displays that the Queen saw, school parties will now be able to work out for themselves why England won at Agincourt but lost at Bannockburn. They will be able to dress a knight for battle and hoist him up on his horse, and try but fail to draw a longbow.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

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### Shaming the tardy business payers

From Mr Alan Golob

Sir, Organisations representing small business should take concerted action against large organisations that delay payment of invoices ("Major promises shame to late payers", Business March 12).

Every month a major "non-paying corporation" should be targeted. Suppliers should be co-ordinated, perhaps by a representative organisation, in their action to issue a county court summons for any amount owed for more than 30 days. (Costs are recoverable.) If, say, 500 summonses were issued in the administration and cost involved in answering and meeting them all would deter companies from withholding payments.

The knock-on effect of so many county court judgments would be to downgrade the company's credit rating, which would in turn affect how much it could borrow from financial institutions, its relationships with overseas trading partners, etc.

There is a world of difference between a company having a good cash flow and its withholding payment. The company that discharges its debts efficiently promotes goodwill and receives good service and prompt attention from its suppliers. Bad payers get put to the bottom of the pile and pay the highest prices for the goods supplied. Big business and government ministers, you would think, would understand this.

Yours etc.  
ALAN GOLOB,  
Hill Brow, Harewood Road,  
Collingham, West Yorkshire.  
March 11.

From Ms Vivien Allen

Sir, Surely there is an easy solution to the problem crippling so many small businesses.

Some years ago when I lived in South Africa I found that if bills were not paid within 30 days you were charged interest and the rate of interest increased the longer the bill was outstanding.

It was not only a powerful incentive to pay on time but perfectly fair: if you have had goods or services and not paid for them you are in effect taking a loan from the supplier and no one expects to have a loan without paying interest.

Yours faithfully,  
VIVIEN ALLEN,  
3 Scarlen Road,  
Castleton, Isle of Man.  
March 13.

### Premium Bonds

From the Head of Policy,  
National Savings

Sir, Your report on the Datamonitor survey of the effects of the National Lottery (News in brief, early editions, March 5) suggests that Premium Bond sales have suffered as a result of it. On the contrary: sales have never been better.

In the year following the launch of the lottery we sold £1.7 billion worth of Premium Bonds, much of it stimulated by the introduction of our £1 million jackpot prize in April 1994. That is over three times as much as we sold in the previous year when there was no competing National Lottery.

What the Datamonitor survey actually said was that managers of banks and building societies thought that the lottery was a serious threat to Premium Bonds and, to a lesser extent, to their own deposit accounts.

They seem to have overlooked an important factor: the appeal of becoming an overnight millionaire is the same with both the lottery and Premium Bonds, but with Premium Bonds people are never at risk of losing their capital.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK HICKMAN  
ROBERTSON,  
Head of Policy,  
National Savings  
Charles House,  
375 Kensington High Street, W14.  
March 14.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

### Dalek dialect

From Mr Jack Clayton

Sir, Carol Inlay's memories of *Dr Who* (letter, March 8) awakened some of mine from 1963. I was then in charge of the studio sound in the first series of the programme and like Raymond Cusick, the designer, I was given freedom to interpret the scripts. He was told only to avoid showing feet: so far as I recall the script it simply described the Dalek voices as "metallic".

Mr Cusick and I made our preparations separately, and it was only when the production reached the studio that the vision and sound came together. The combination was an instant success and the Daleks, as Miss Inlay describes so graphically, made a considerable impact upon the viewers of the day.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK CLAYTON,  
Brook House, Swindon,  
Saxmundham, Suffolk.  
March 9.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

### Flick donation to Balliol College

From Mr Stephen Shaw

Sir, Lord Shawcross (letter, March 14; also report, March 12) writes of "the Flick family donation to Balliol College, Oxford" but asserts that it would be wrong to visit the sins of the grandfather upon the grandson.

The fact is that this "generous endowment" is and will always be perceived as a "Flick family donation", and from a family whose fortune is associated with its support for the Third Reich.

It seems clear to me that the self-evident purpose of the endowment is to lift the status of a name steeped in such associations. Had Balliol had any self-respect it would have rejected such moneys. By accepting, it has diminished its standing.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN SHAW,  
27 West Heath Drive, NW1.  
March 14.

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, I have followed with interest the debate surrounding the Flick family donation to Balliol College and I agree with Lord Shawcross that the donor's name, whether Dr Flick or his grandfather, should be accepted.

I recall, as will your older readers, the debate in the early 1950s about the payment of reparations by Germany to Israel and the Jewish people. It was agreed that reparations for material losses during the Second World War were an important step in the process of reconciliation between Germans and Jews.

With benefit of hindsight we can see that the positions taken by Chancellor Adenauer and Prime Minister Ben Gurion, in the face of considerable opposition, were indeed correct.

There has been an appreciation, not only by Germany as a state but also by German individuals, that they have a special responsibility in pro-

moting Christian-Jewish understanding.

I believe that Dr Flick is similarly motivated and his gift to Balliol should be accepted in that spirit. This gift, of course, does not discharge the legitimate claims of the survivors of the slave-labour regime in the wartime Flick operation to be compensated for their suffering. That question remains to be resolved.

Yours sincerely,  
SIGMUND STERNBERG,  
The Sternberg Centre for Judaism,  
The Manor House,  
80 East End Road, N3.  
March 14.

From Ms Ziona S. Strelitz

Sir, There are circumstances in which the recent Flick endowment to Balliol College could have been considered generous. The chair might have been endowed without carrying the donor's name. It might even have commemorated those who had no choice in contributing to the fortune from which the gift derives. With the donor's name, however, the endowment is not generous, but self-serving.

Yours sincerely,  
ZIONA S. STRELITZ,  
89 Meadow, NW1.  
March 15.

From Mr R. Gartenberg

Sir, I entirely agree with Lord Shawcross that the current Dr Flick cannot be held to account for the sins of his grandfather. However, one is entitled to ask whether Dr Flick would have been able to make his generous donation had his grandfather not laid the foundation of his fortune.

Yours faithfully,  
RALPH GARTENBERG,  
14 Cuckoo Hill Drive,  
Pinner, Middlesex.  
March 14.

So many Japanese high-tech firms now have plants in Bangalore that it is being called India's "Silicon Gulch".

Yours faithfully,  
ROY PROCTOR EDWARDS,  
13 Sycamore Court,  
Springfield Road,  
Windsor, Berkshire.

From Mr Iain Banks

Sir, Mr Ganesh Lall (letter, March 14) draws attention to India's "respect for the other side and tolerance of dissenting beliefs and opinions" as part of the rich culture that enabled democracy to take root there.

Under normal circumstances, one would give Mr Lall the benefit of the doubt, but after the debacle in Calcutta (cricket report and photograph, March 14) there's clearly no need to trouble the third umpire.

Yours etc.,  
IAN BANKS,  
40 Doods Park Road, Reigate, Surrey.  
March 14.

### Team spirit brings hope to Sri Lanka

From Mr Amal Abeyawardene

Sir, Whether Sri Lanka wins or loses in the cricket World Cup final, the mere fact that the national team has reached the ultimate stage of the competition will be an enormous achievement for this tiny, troubled country. What has been largely overlooked by most commentators, more surprised by the blitzkrieg batting, has been the fact that this has been a collective achievement.

The team is a true representation of the unity of Sri Lanka, and not a Sinhalese or Tamil squad. Nor is it one from the exclusive Colombo middle class. Sinhalese, Tamil and all other ethnic constituents can rightly take pride in applauding the team's achievement: their industrious yet modest approach; their will, guile and concentration; and above all, their cohesion and teamwork. When one team member failed, another has responded to compensate.

Despite being denied opportunities to gain invaluable experience on tours both away and at home, cricket in Sri Lanka has been carefully nurtured and has now reached extraordinary heights. Surely the team has come for other long-standing Test-playing countries to recognise these achievements and provide Sri Lanka with more experience in full Test match tours.

It would be marvellous if Sri Lanka can beat Australia in the final on Sunday, but the real prize for Sri Lanka, for its team, cricket fans and all inhabitants, would be if all the disparate elements of the island can continue to unite even after the stumps are drawn and cheer on the dawning of a lasting peace.

Arjuna Ranatunga and his cricketing colleagues have shown with their endeavours on the field what the nation will one day achieve with unity and harmony.

Yours etc.,  
AMAL ABEYAWARDENE,  
Flat 8, 119 Westbourne Terrace, W2.  
March 17.

### Clergy testing

From Mr N. R. MacNicol

Sir, The questions for would-be clergy proposed by Mr Richard Beighton (letter, March 12), "Do you believe in God?" and "Do you believe in the Bible?", would puzzle the Church of England examiners as well as the candidates. How long and how well will arched would the answers have to be?

The late Professor C. E. M. Joad, who famously prefaced every answer on the *Brains Trust* programme with "It all depends what you mean by . . .", gave the definitive Anglican answer to



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
March 15: The Queen today visited Leeds and was received at the Railway Station by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire (Mr John Lyles) and the Lord Mayor of Leeds (Councillor Mrs J.M. White).

Having been received at Victoria Bridge by the Chairman, British Waterways Board (Mr. Bernard Henderson), Her Majesty embarked in a canal boat, proceeded to Clarence Dock and was received by the Duke of Kent (President, the Royal Armouries Development Trust).

The Queen subsequently arrived at the Royal Armouries Museum and was received by the Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Royal Armouries (the Lord Younger of Prestwick) and Mr Guy Wilson (Master of the Armouries).

Her Majesty watched a Masque, performed to explain the concept of the Museum, and opened the Royal Armouries Museum.

Afterwards, The Queen toured the Museum.

This afternoon, Her Majesty honoured the Lord Mayor of Leeds with her presence at Luncheon in the Civic Hall.

The Queen later visited Waddingtons Carbons Limited and was received by the Chairman of John Waddington (Mr. David Perry).

By Command of The Queen, the Baroness Miller of Hensor (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the arrival of the

Governor-General of Canada and Madame LeBlanc and welcomed Their Excellencies on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The Queen, held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
March 15: The Duke of York, Patron, this morning launched the Swindon Heritage Trust Appeal on board HMS *Invincible* at Portsmouth.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

March 15: The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, today attended a Council Meeting at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, London EC2.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Olympic Association, this evening attended a Grand Appeal Dinner at Edinburgh International Conference Centre and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Lord Provost).

**YORK HOUSE**

March 15: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Armouries Development Trust, this morning attended the opening of the Royal Armouries by The Queen, Waterlow House, Waterloo Street, Leeds.

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon visited Alredale International Air Conditioning, Rawdon Factory, Leeds Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

## Marlborough College

Marlborough College announces the following scholarship and exhibition awards for September 1996:

**Sixth Form Awards**  
Major Academic Scholarships: Edward Barling, formerly at Westminster School; Charles John Tonks, formerly at Warwick School.

**Mision Academic Scholarships:** Zoe Moore, Dame Alice Harmsworth School; Phoebe Mayall, formerly at Rosehill School; Anna Hodges, formerly at St Andrews' College, Cambridge; Katherine Price, Baileigh Park School; Johanna Lodge, St Andrews'; Lucy Tandy, Tonbridge School; Swanbourne House School.

**Major Music Scholarships:** Victoria Main, Prebendary of Gloucester; Alison Minns, Music Scholarships: Sarah Jackson, Edgeborough; Madeline Sumption, Culver House School; Sophie Milburn-Poole, Marlborough School.

**Music Scholarships:** Daniel Stafford, Chipping Norton School.

**Music Exhibitions:** Christina Too, St Stephen's College, Oxford; Christopher Astbury, Alexander Harkness, formerly at Northbourne Park, Buntingford.

**Justus Awards:** Major Academic Scholarships: William Seymour, St Andrews' College, Cambridge; Christopher Dore, Dulwich College, Dulwich; Daniel Summerfield, St Edmund's School, Cambridge; Michaela Mair, St Edmund's School, Cambridge; Merryl Lawrie, White Coatmeal School, Swindon; Grace Boswood,

**Summer Scholarships:** Emily Adair, Castle Court School; Henry Adams, House (George Abbott) Scholarships.

**Academic Exhibitions:** Emma Maurice, Clinton High School; Maxine Summers, Marlborough School.

**Sixth Form Scholarships:** Jonathan Tonks, formerly at Warwick School.

**Music Scholarships:** Michael Aldous, formerly at Summer Fields; Adam Dore, formerly at St Edmund's School; Anna Hodges, formerly at St Andrews' College, Cambridge; Christopher Dore, Dulwich College, Dulwich; Sophie Milburn-Poole, Marlborough School.

**Luncheon**

Lord Weatherill was the host yesterday at a farewell luncheon held at the House of Lords by the Executive Committee of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in honour of the Speakers, Deputy Speakers and Members of Commonwealth.

**Major Academic Scholarships:** William Seymour, St Andrews' College, Cambridge; Christopher Dore, Dulwich College, Dulwich; Daniel Summerfield, St Edmund's School, Cambridge; Michaela Mair, St Edmund's School, Cambridge; Merryl Lawrie, White Coatmeal School, Swindon; Grace Boswood,

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10.15 S Eucharist, followed by Evensong (Meditation). The Preacher: 6.30 S. Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), Standford in B (Jas. Lord) or the Lamb (Perry). The service ends with a short organ voluntary.

**BEST ASHTON:** 8 HC: 10.15 S. Mass (C. Best); 10.15 S. Mass (C. Best).

**BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL:** 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 S. Choral Evensong (Harrow).

**BEST CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10.15 S. Rev Dr H Monteiro: 11 S. Choral Evensong (Fitzherbert).

**BRISTOL CATHEDRAL:** 7.45-8 HC: 10.15 S. Choral Evensong (Fitzherbert).

**CARLISLE CATHEDRAL:** 7.45-8 HC: 10.15 S. Choral Evensong (Fitzherbert).

**COVENTRY CATHEDRAL:** 7.45-8 HC: 10.15 S. Choral Evensong (Fitzherbert).

**CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL:** 8 HC: 10.15 S. Choral Evensong (Fitzherbert).

**CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY CATHEDRAL:** Oxford: 8 HC: 10.15 S. Eucharist.

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## OBITUARIES

## GROUP CAPTAIN STUART WILSON-MACDONALD

Group Captain Stuart Wilson-MacDonald, DSO, DFC, wartime fighter pilot and ground attack wing leader, died on February 29 aged 83. He was born in Oban on March 15, 1912.

In a career which took him from biplanes in the Middle East in the 1930s to the postwar jet age, Duncan Wilson-MacDonald led a squadron in the Battle of Britain and a wing in strafing attacks in the Balkans. In 1948 he secured a niche in aviation history when he led a flight of six Vampires on the world's first crossing of the Atlantic by jet aircraft.

During the Battle of Britain he commanded No 213 Squadron of Hurricanes at Tangmere in West Sussex, and later took the squadron out to the Middle East. Subsequently, when he commanded a wing in attacks on the Germans in support of partisan movements in Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece, he was delighted to find his old squadron was part of his force.

His reminiscences, recorded for the Imperial War Museum towards the end of his life, capture not only the spirit of carefree valour of those who fought the battle for Britain's survival in the summer of 1940, but the sheer joy of flying, even when each sortie might end in violent death. Wilson-MacDonald's unassuming account speaks of the "marvellous sight" of the massive German air fleet building up, layer upon layer, over Cherbourg before launching their next assault on the ports of southern England. There is, too, the sheer awe as the airman looks down on the vast pall of smoke from London's blazing docks, towering up to 20,000ft and drifting majestically down the Thames and out over the Channel.

At the other end of the spectrum are the small details, the cups of tea and bars of chocolate made available by WVS girls to grateful fighter pilots waiting at dispersal huts for orders to scramble, and the half-eaten lunches, laughingly abandoned on mess tables as the airmen have to take to the skies for the next round of action.

Though he was scrambled 85 times during the Battle of Britain and subsequently took part in many low-level sorties against heavily defended enemy positions over the Adriatic, Wilson-MacDonald was never shot down. Yet as a child he had been so gravely ill for long periods that it was a wonder that he survived to manhood.

Duncan Stuart MacDonald (he acquired the other half of his surname in 1947 when he married his first cousin Rosemary Wilson) was the son of an Oban doctor. In his teens he was afflicted by tuberculosis and by severe bouts of pleurisy and pneumonia which brought him near to death.

After he finished at Oban High School, a patient of his father's, Francis Patmore, son of the poet Coventry Patmore, invited MacDonald to join him on his coffee plantation in Kenya. There he spent the next two years helping Patmore to run the plantation. In 1931, with the Depression severely affecting the business, he returned to Britain. His father wanted him to study



Stuart Wilson-MacDonald after his first solo flight in a de Havilland Tiger Moth at Filton in 1935

medicine, but after giving it a try he decided instead to learn to fly. He joined the RAF Reserve in 1934 and gained a short service commission the following year after going solo. Once qualified as a pilot, he found himself in the Middle East, serving with No 41 Squadron of Hawker Demon biplane fighters. There, the squadron had to perform a number of duties, ranging from intimidating rebellious Yemeni tribesmen by overflying their encampments to delivering mail to the British military personnel on Kamran Island in the Red Sea, which served as a staging post (and fumigation centre) for pilgrims making the long journey from India to Mecca.

After a period as a flying instructor, in 1940 he was given command of a Hurricane squadron, No 213, at Exeter. But soon afterwards it moved to Tangmere where its task was to intercept the massive forces of German bombers and fighters which were launched from Cherbourg against ports and airfields in southern and western Britain. Tangmere itself came under frequent and fierce attack as the Luftwaffe tried to strangle Fighter Command on its bases. On one occasion a large number of WAAFs were among those killed when the operations room at Tangmere was hit. These were desperate days for Fighter Command, and its commanders Dowding and Park were fearfully worried. Yet as Wilson-MacDonald recalled, in a spirit totally devoid of bravado, the question of being defeated never

entered the pilots' heads: "We had a job to do — and we did it to the best of our ability." Although the Hurricane was no match for the Me109, Wilson-MacDonald downed one of these and a couple of Me109s during the Battle of Britain.

It was brought home to him on one occasion just how close the enemy was, and how short a distance the Germans had to come to invade England. After a dogfight with two Me109s at 35,000ft, he descended through cloud, looking for an airfield to land on, when he suddenly became aware that the vehicles he could see on the roads beneath him were driving on the right-hand side of the road. Realising he was not over Sussex but Occupied France he hastily set a westerly course and recrossed the Channel to safety. On several occasions his aircraft was so badly damaged by cannon fire that it was totally written off after he landed. But he never had to crash-land or bale out.

After a period flying from Orkney and Shetland, where it tried to intercept the giant Focke-Wulf Condor bombers which were menacing the Atlantic convoys, No 213, still with Wilson-MacDonald in command, went out to the Middle East. There it took part in ground attack operations against the Vichy French in Lebanon and Syria. Later he went to Egypt to form a gunnery school whose aim was to improve the shooting of the pilots of the Desert Air Force.

As the Mediterranean campaign

moved on to Italy he was put in charge of an attack wing consisting of two South African squadrons of Beaufighters and his old squadron, No 213, which now flew Mustangs. Operating from bases in the heel of Italy under the aegis of the Balkan Air Force, this had several jobs. It supported guerrilla movements in Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece, flying in airstrikes on German troops and strong points, directed by information supplied by partisans on the ground. Its Mustangs provided long-range escort for the bombers of the US 15th Air Force in their raids on targets on Axis-occupied Central and Eastern Europe. And it helped the Royal Navy in the Adriatic.

In one particular attack on the exiled King Zog's palace in Tirana, then occupied by the SS, Wilson-MacDonald recalled with amusement seeing German soldiers scrabbling through the windows and sliding down the sumptuous royal red velvet curtains at the back of the building, as the Mustangs, roaring in at low level, strafed the front of it.

Sometimes the wing leader indulged in what he called "a little private raiding". On one occasion, after his wing had raided a target on the Yugoslav mainland, he received a call from a Royal Navy destroyer asking him to help in suppressing a nest of German guns on an island of Dubrovnik. Sending the rest of his Mustangs and the Beaufighters back to Italy, Wilson-MacDonald spent a fruitful half-hour cruising over the

island and providing rough-and-ready but effective gunfire spotting for the destroyer which was, as a result, able to silence the troublesome gun position. On another occasion he and the CO of No 213 sank an E-boat which had been giving the Navy some anxiety. In 1945 he was awarded the DSO to add to the DFC he had already won in the Battle of Britain.

After the war Wilson-MacDonald converted effortlessly to the new jet aircraft which were entering service. In July 1948 he led a flight of six Vampires of No 54 Squadron on the first transatlantic flight to be accomplished by jet planes — a three-stage flight from Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides to Goose Bay, Labrador, via Iceland and Greenland. Flying into the teeth of winds often exceeding 200mph and in atrocious visibility with cloud almost all the way up to 40,000ft, this was a considerable feat, the more so as the airfields that the Vampires used as staging posts had difficult approaches — that to Blue West in Greenland involved flying down a glacier between sheer walls of rock — and primitive landing facilities.

The flight provided useful data for future military and civil transatlantic jet flights.

Among Wilson-MacDonald's later appointments was command of RAF Sylt in the North Frisian Islands in 1954. His final post was as Air Attaché in Stockholm from 1960 to 1963, when he retired.

Stuart Wilson-MacDonald is survived by his wife Rosemary, and by a son and daughter.

## MILLAR GAULT

Millar Gault, MBE, horticulturist, rosarian and former Superintendent of Regent's Park, London, died on March 12 aged 92. He was born on March 1, 1904.



Royal Horticultural Society's flower shows in Westminster where he put up for award many excellent shrubs and other plants. Christopher Brickell, the former director-general of the RHS, wrote of him: "Few gardeners today can claim such a wide-ranging knowledge of plants as Millar Gault." He was an experienced show judge and exhibitor of roses, and his show displays of roses won many RHS gold medals.

He was involved with the Royal National Rose Society as a vice-president, member of council and honorary horticultural adviser, and he also served on the management committee of the society's gardens at Chiswell Green, Hertfordshire. In 1979 the society awarded him the Dean Hole Medal for his work.

Gault wrote a number of books which have since become classics among gardeners. One of his best known is *The Dictionary of Roses in Colour* (1971), published in collaboration with the Royal Horticultural Society, which he wrote with Patrick M. Syngue, a former editor of the RHS Journal. He wrote the modern section of the book, covering hybrid teas, floribundas and modern shrub roses, which he planted in abundance in Queen Mary's Garden, in the inner circle of Regent's Park, had been established for many years, but Gault massively expanded and improved the display of the roses, building up one of the finest rose gardens in the country — indeed the world.

Gault's career had turned to parks by the early 1950s, first as Superintendent of Greenwich Park in London. In 1955 he crossed the river to Regent's Park and he remained there for 14 years, until his retirement in 1969. Queen Mary's Garden, in the inner circle of Regent's Park, had been established for many years, but Gault massively expanded and improved the display of the roses, building up one of the finest rose gardens in the country — indeed the world.

He introduced hardy perennials to grow with the roses — an innovation in his day — and also created herbaceous borders.

Although his first love was roses, Gault was a knowledgeable all-round plantsman. He was a familiar sight at the

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## DEWI BEBB

Dewi Bebb, Welsh rugby international, died from cancer on March 14 aged 57. He was born in Bangor on August 7, 1938.

DEWI BEBB played rugby 34 times for Wales and later became a leading sports commentator in the Principality. Wales has produced many outstanding wing three-quarters and, in an era when open play was at a premium, Bebb stood comparison with the

best. England had good cause to remember him: of his 11 international tries, six were scored against the English.

Bebb spanned the era between the mid-1930s, as defined by the elusive genius of Cliff Morgan, and that of the late-1960s when such luminaries as Gareth Edwards, Barry John and Gerald Davies were already on the horizon. It was not a successful period for Wales but Bebb's pre-eminence was proved by his

selection for two British Isles tours, to South Africa in 1962 and Australasia four years later.

He was also proud to be one of the comparatively few North Walians to force his way into the national side. He came from a literary family in Bangor; his father, a lecturer, was a supporter of Plaid Cymru and edited the Welsh language newspaper *Y Ddraig Coch*. Years later Bebb's involvement with

TWW, the independent television company serving Wales, began with presentation of the Welsh language programme *Y Dwyd*.

Dewi Forwerth Ellis Bebb was educated at Friars School, Bangor, and became only the third North Wales Schools player after Wilf Wooler and Bleddyn Williams — to achieve his senior cap. National Service took him to the Royal Navy and he played for United Services, Portsmouth,

before entering Trinity College, Carmarthen, in 1958.

At the same time he began his long career with the Swans club; two matches after his debut he was picked for Wales against England, aged 20. "Is quick off the mark and elusive. Should do well despite the threat of England's Jackson," the match programme said of him. Prophetic. Bebb marked his entry to international rugby with the only try of the game, skimming over the mud to elude his marker, Peter Jackson.

He had to exist on short commons for Swansea and became accustomed to going in search of the ball, a habit which served him particularly well at Twickenham in 1964 when he scored two tries from the left wing.

He shared in the triple crown success of 1965 and ended his international career against England too, scoring a try in the 1967 game in Cardiff which went down in history as Keith Jarrett's match and denied England a triple crown. His first major tour, in 1962,

held promise of success since, as a sprinter who clocked 9.9 seconds for 100 yards, the hard grounds of South Africa should have suited him. But injury prevented his appearance until mid-tour, and the 1966 tour with the British Isles, despite consistent defeats by the All Blacks, proved far more successful: he appeared in all six internationals against Australia and New Zealand and led the way with 14 tries in all games.

In 1964 he left the teaching profession for Swansea and became accustomed to going in search of the ball, a habit which served him particularly well at Twickenham in 1964 when he scored two tries from the left wing.

When Harlech Television took over the franchise for the region he edited the *Sports Arena* programme and contributed substantially to television coverage of the 1987 and 1991 World Cups before turning freelance in 1992. His work for television won him many plaudits but he suffered a brain tumour in 1994. He leaves his wife Morwen, and two sons.

## ON THIS DAY

March 16, 1903

*Whitaker Wright, a financier who made (and lost) fortunes, was found guilty of fraud in London in January 1904 and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. But he had received a gauntlet pellet which he took after sentence and died within the hour.*

that they had warrants charging Mr. Wright with being a fugitive from justice. The magistrate signed an order handing the prisoner over to the U.S. authority and Mr. Wright was then removed from the Court.

It was only on Saturday afternoon that the police authorities in New York were informed by cable that Mr. Wright had sailed in La Lorraine, which arrived yesterday morning a few hours later than was expected. Although several detectives have been pursuing inquiries on the French coast, in Paris, and in most of the large cities of France for some days, it was not until Saturday morning that banknotes which were known to have been in Mr. Wright's possession in London were found in the French capital. This clue speedily led to other evidence as to the course followed by the missing man, and the detectives who were watching the various ports of departure were apprised of the information. Mr. Wright's personal appearance aided the work of investigation considerably and the fact having been established that he had visited and had apparently left Paris, it was not then a difficult matter to trace him to Havre, where it was very quickly learned that a gentleman answering to his description had sailed under a foreign name by the French Transatlantic Company's liner La Lorraine.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## TRUSTEE ACTS

CAREY, FREDERICK PATRICK, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 17, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

JOHNSON, CHRISTOPHER, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

NIGHTINGALE, JAMES, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

SHAMMOND, ELEANOR MARJORIE, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

WILLIS, SYLVIA DIANE, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

## FOR SALE

WATERLOO Clock with marine watch, black on steel/gold case, 24cm. Tel: 01850 770 655.

WATKINS, ROBERT, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

WEINSTEIN, DAVID, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

WESTON, RICHARD, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

WHITE, ROBERT, of 102 Gloucester Road, W11, died on March 12, 1996, aged 86. Burial on March 14, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Interment of ashes on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Services at 1.30pm on March 15, 1996, at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Burial of ashes on March 16, 1996, at St Paul's

## NEWS

## Nation unites for Dunblane tribute

■ In a collective act of respect and an expression of deep sorrow, much of Britain will observe a minute's silence tomorrow in memory of the 17 victims of the Dunblane massacre and in solidarity with those left behind to grieve for them.

As the nation prepared to mourn with the Scottish city, doctors struggled to save the life of Amie Adam, five. Her thigh was shattered by bullets when the killer struck in the gymnasium of Dunblane Primary School. .... Page 1

■ The inquiries: Lord Cullen, the Scottish High Court judge heading the public inquiry on the shooting, began work amid mounting public pressure for answers from police and local authorities about Thomas Hamilton. .... Page 2

■ The hospital: A doctor who was among the first to enter the school gymnasium explained how she overcame her horror to tend to the injured children. .... Page 3

■ The school: The children of Dunblane Primary School will go back to lessons next Friday, nine days after the massacre, governors said. .... Page 4

## Solicitor convicted

A solicitor who rugby-tackled the wife of a wealthy client was convicted of assault and false imprisonment. .... Page 5

## Pension planning

Proposals to let everyone save for a substantial second pension in addition to the state scheme are to be unveiled by Labour. .... Page 6

## Island strife

The Seigneur of Sark is to contest an attempt by the multimillionaire Barclay twins to declare independence for the Channel island of Brechou. .... Page 7

## 'Dishonest' claims

Manufacturers are cashing in on environmental worries with "misleading and downright dishonest" claims about goods. .... Page 8

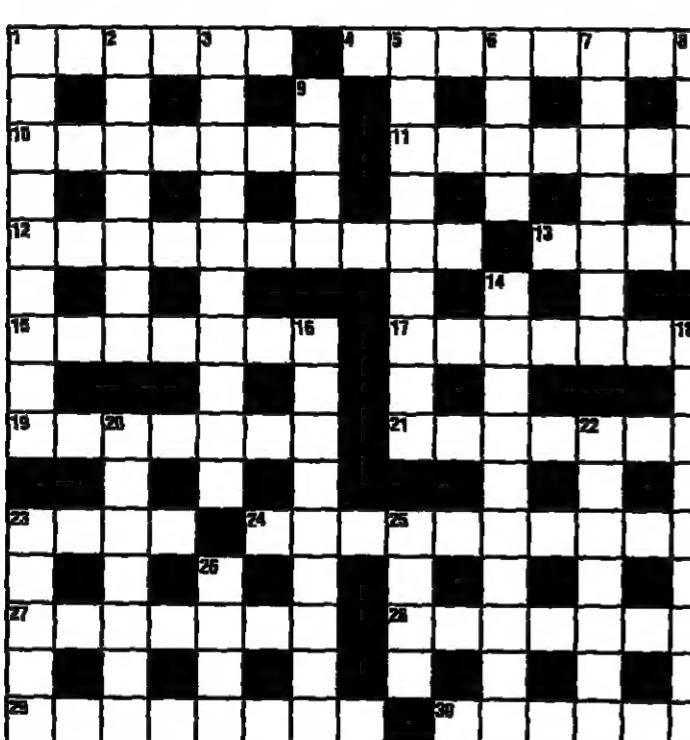
## Paying lip-service to the law

■ The Italian Supreme Court overturned a man's jail sentence for sexual harassment, saying that kissing a female colleague in public on the neck was not a criminal offence. "There are lustful kisses and non-lustful kisses," the judges said. .... Page 9

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,117

**ABERLOUR**  
A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....



**ACROSS**  
1 Greek youth setting record once with cupholder (6).  
4 Sailor's in the drink? (8).  
10 Knock back first class beer in the Crown and Sceptre, say (7).  
11 To flower, it turns brown (7).  
12 One who works for a capitation fee? (4-6).  
13 Protuberance in the back row (4).  
15 Pulled in for lottery pub (7).  
17 Sort of pipe in middle of the ear (4-3).  
19 One expected to shoot — a large-leaved plant? (7).  
21 Doctor in operation going round holding a small knife (7).  
23 Bar codes a vegetable displays (4).  
24 Drink up! (7-3).  
27 Hands, for example, to one national (7).  
28 Embrace link an American may take to be formal (7).  
29 Excite tribesman to perform dance (8).  
30 Editor accepts leader is drawn out (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,111

**KETCHUP MISTRAL**  
I F E A T E A  
L A T I N R E T R I E V E R  
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C H U H R A A D P E  
C O N S O N A N T S W E P T  
I H E A N A  
D E P L E T E S P L O T C H

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: P.S. Pearce, Camborne, Cornwall; P.A. Brant, Lexington, Kentucky, USA.

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## NATURE NOTES

Cheetah (*Latepaya hezza*)

Preys on weaker, lightweight animals which are run down at great speed. Likes a fast buck and enjoys a commodious habitat.



## OPINION

Collective error: If the Conservative Party is going to divide over Europe, it will do so with or without a referendum. But if ministers are free to register their case, the campaign will be conducted with honesty. .... Page 21

Armour and light: When man starts to organise himself in society, what more can he want than to build and defend society? .... Page 21

## LETTERS

Flick donation to Bellio College; the bad payers of big business ..... Page 21

## COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: As academics perambulate the Broad and High they carry on their shoulders the guilt of history. If they do not visit the sins of the fathers on the sons and the grandsons, who will take up the burden? .... Page 20

Peter Lilley: The Pensions Act, will fuel confidence in occupational pensions by creating secure regulation. .... Page 20

## OBITUARIES

Group Captain Stuart Wilson-MacDonald, fighter pilot; Dewi Bebb, Welsh rugby international ..... Page 23

Market change: The Stock Exchange will publish details of how it plans to introduce an electronic order-matching system, rejecting controversial proposals from its former chief executive. .... Page 25

Berlings: The Securities and Futures Authority served notices of disciplinary proceedings against former Barings executives over their role in the £860 million collapse of the bank. .... Page 25

## AEROSPACE

Fokker, the Dutch firm, sent shockwaves through the British industry ..... Page 25

## RUGBY UNION

England will win the triple crown if they beat Ireland at Twickenham today in Will Carling's last match as captain. .... Page 48

Golf: Colin Montgomerie, of Scotland, shares second place after two rounds of the Dubai Desert Classic. .... Page 46

Boxing: Respected American judges give Frank Bruno a good chance of successfully defending his world heavyweight crown against Mike Tyson in Las Vegas. .... Pages 46, 48

## ARTS

Violence on screen: "This week," Richard Morrison writes, "we would willingly burn every violent film if we felt we might stop another roadman from tipping over the edge. When the anger subsides a liberal pragmatism will return" .... Page 17

## WELL TRAINED

Now a cult film, Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* is also back on the London stage. .... Page 17

## CAR 96

British made: Two great names are having to sell their heritage to foreign buyers

## SPORTS

Rugby union: England will win the triple crown if they beat Ireland at Twickenham today in Will Carling's last match as captain. .... Page 48

Golf: Colin Montgomerie, of Scotland, shares second place after two rounds of the Dubai Desert Classic. .... Page 46

Boxing: Respected American judges give Frank Bruno a good chance of successfully defending his world heavyweight crown against Mike Tyson in Las Vegas. .... Pages 46, 48

## SECTIONS

## MAGAZINE

Movie heart-throb: Gill Whitelock meets Robert Redford. .... Page 10  
Second time: Alan Frank on a rapist. .... Page 20

## WEEKEND

Spring song: Derwent May reports. .... Page 1



Property: Tide of change on the river. .... Pages 18-19  
Travel: Wild about Colorado cowboys. .... Page 18

## 10 15

High-flier: John Travolta's flying passion. .... Page 1  
Win a driving course for under-17s. .... Page 1

## VISION



Bookmark previews Jilly Cooper's new novel, *Appassionata*. Today, BBC2 Film: *All the President's Men*, Tuesday, BBC1

## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest regional by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 401 followed by the London & SE traffic, roadworks. Areas within M25: Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Oxon ..... 721 Kent/Sussex/Portsmouth ..... 722 Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants ..... 723 M25 London Orbital only ..... 726 National traffic and roadworks: National Railways ..... 727 West Country ..... 728 Wales ..... 729 Midlands ..... 730 East Anglia ..... 741 Central England ..... 742 North-East England ..... 743 Scotland ..... 744 Northern Ireland ..... 745 AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0386 401 followed by the London & SE traffic, roadworks. Areas within M25: Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Oxon ..... 721 Kent/Sussex/Portsmouth ..... 722 Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants ..... 723 M25 London Orbital only ..... 726 National traffic and roadworks: National Railways ..... 727 West Country ..... 728 Wales ..... 729 Midlands ..... 730 East Anglia ..... 741 Central England ..... 742 North-East England ..... 743 Scotland ..... 744 Northern Ireland ..... 745 AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

## TODAY

Sun rises: 6.12 am Sun sets: 8.07 pm Moon rises: - am Moon sets: - am New Moon March 19 London 6.09 pm to 6.10 am Bristol 6.17 pm to 6.19 am Cardiff 6.24 pm to 6.25 am Manchester 6.31 pm to 6.32 am Percease 6.39 pm to 6.41 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.10 am Sun sets: 6.09 pm Moon rises: - am Moon sets: - am New Moon March 19 London 6.09 pm to 6.10 am Bristol 6.17 pm to 6.19 am Cardiff 6.24 pm to 6.25 am Manchester 6.31 pm to 6.32 am Percease 6.39 pm to 6.41 am

## HIGH TIDES

TODAY

London Bridge 11.06 8.3 11.30 8.4 10.37 3.8 11.28 3.9 4.19 11.2 4.55 11.7 4.18 10.5 4.47 10.8 2.45 4.8 3.26 4.8 5.22 4.6 2.26 4.6 10.21 3.0 10.31 3.0 2.28 4.6 2.26 4.6 14.57 1.1 14.64 1.1 14.71 1.1 14.78 1.1 14.85 1.1 14.92 1.1 14.99 1.1 15.06 1.1 15.13 1.1 15.20 1.1 15.27 1.1 15.34 1.1 15.41 1.1 15.48 1.1 15.55 1.1 15.62 1.1 15.69 1.1 15.76 1.1 15.83 1.1 15.90 1.1 15.97 1.1 16.04 1.1 16.11 1.1 16.18 1.1 16.25 1.1 16.32 1.1 16.39 1.1 16.46 1.1 16.53 1.1 16.60 1.1 16.67 1.1 16.74 1.1 16.81 1.1 16.88 1.1 16.95 1.1 17.02 1.1 17.09 1.1 17.16 1.1 17.23 1.1 17.30 1.1 17.37 1.1 17.44 1.1 17.51 1.1 17.58 1.1 17.65 1.1 17.72 1.1 17.79 1.1 17.86 1.1 17.93 1.1 18.00 1.1 18.07 1.1 18.14 1.1 18.21 1.1 18.28 1.1 18.35 1.1 18.42 1.1 18.49 1.1 18.56 1.1 18.63 1.1 18.70 1.1 18.77 1.1 18.84 1.1 18.91 1.1 18.98 1.1 19.05 1.1 19.12 1.1 19.19 1.1 19.26 1.1 19.33 1.1 19.40 1.1 19.47 1.1 19.54 1.1 19.61 1.1 19.68 1.1 19.75 1.1 19.82 1.1 19.89 1.1 19.96 1.1 20.03 1.1 20.10 1.1 20.17 1.1 20.24 1.1 20.31 1.1 20.38 1.1 20.45 1.1 20.52 1.1 20.59 1.1 20.66 1.1 20.73 1.1 20.80 1.1 20.87 1.1 20.94 1.1 21.01 1.1 21.08 1.1 21.15 1.1 21.22 1.1 21.29 1.1 21.36 1.1 21.43 1.1 21.50 1.1 21.57 1.1 21.64 1.1 21.71 1.1 21.78 1.1 21.85 1.1 21.92 1.1 21.99 1.1 22.06 1.1 22.13 1.1 22.20 1.1 22.27 1.1 22.34 1.1 22.41 1.1 22.48 1.1 22.55 1.1 22.62 1.1 22.69 1.1 22.76 1.1 22.83 1.1 22.90 1.1 22.97 1.1 23.04 1.1 23.11 1.1 23.18 1.1 23.25 1.1 23.32 1.1 23.39 1.1 23.46 1.1 23.53 1.1 23.60 1.1 23.67 1.1 23.74 1.1 23.81 1.1 23.88 1.1 23.95 1.1 23.12 1.1 23.19 1.1 23.26 1.1 23.33 1.1 23.40 1.1 23.47 1.1 23.54 1.1 23.61 1.1 23.68 1.1 23.75 1.1 23.82 1.1 23.89 1.1 23.96 1.1 24.03 1.1 24.10 1.1 24.17 1.1 24.24 1.1 24.31 1.1 24.38 1.1 24.45 1.1 24.52 1.1 24.59 1.1 24.66 1.1 24.73 1.1 24.80 1.1 24.87 1.1 24.94 1.1 24.11 1.1 24.18 1.1 24.25 1.1 24.32 1.1 24.39 1.1 24.46 1.1 24.53 1.1 24.60 1.1 24.67 1.1 24.74 1.1 24.81 1.1 24.88 1.1 24.95 1.1 25.02 1.1 25.09 1.1 25.16 1.1 25.23 1.1 25.30 1.1 25.37 1.1 25.44 1.1 25.51 1.1 25.58 1.1 25.65 1.1 25.72 1.1 25.79 1.1 25.86 1.1 25.93 1.1 25.10 1.1 25.17 1.1 25.24 1.1 25.31 1.1 25.38 1.1 25.45 1.1 25.52 1.1 25.59 1.1 25.66 1.1 25.73 1.1 25.80 1.1 25.87 1.1 25.94 1.1 25.11 1.1 25.18 1.1 25.25 1.1 25.32 1.1 25.39 1.1 25.46 1.1 25.53 1.1 25.60 1.1 25.67 1.1 25.74 1.1 25.81 1.1 25.88 1.1 25.95 1.1 26.02 1.1 26.09 1.1 26.16 1.1 26.23 1.1 26.30 1.1 26.37 1.1 26.44 1.1 26.51 1.1 26.58 1.1 26.65 1.1